



26 March 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, DUNGANNON, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 26 March 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------|
| 4. | Council minutes of meeting held on 27 February 2020 | 3 - 30 |
| 5. | Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 3 March 2020 | 31 - 48 |
| 6. | Policy and Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 5 March 2020 | 49 - 54 |
| 7. | Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 March 2020 | 55 - 66 |
| 8. | Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2020 | 67 - 86 |
| 9. | Conferences, Seminar and Training | 87 - 98 |
| 10. | Council's Governance arrangements re COVID 19 including the Scheme of Delegation for Planning | 99 - 106 |

Matters for Information

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| 11 | Correspondence | 107 - 120 |
| 12 | Consultations | 121 - 122 |

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

Matters for Decision

13. Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 27 February 2020
14. Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 March 2020
15. Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 March 2020
16. Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 March 2020
17. Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2020
18. Villages Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme -IST Davagh(s), Washingbay and Portglenone
19. Villages Extension Programme/Rural Development IST Ballyronan
20. Connecting Pomeroy
21. Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme - Maghera
22. Tackling Rural Poverty Programme – IST Work Package 5 – Davagh MBT & Moydamlaght
23. Maghera Sports Pitch
24. Villages Extension Programme – IST Roundlake Fivemiletown
25. Document for Sealing: Transfer Deed relating to the sale of Lands situated at Railway Park, Newell Road, Dungannon
26. Document for Sealing: Novation Agreement dated 28 February 2020 regarding Waste Related Consultancy Services

Matters for Information

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 February 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C024/20 Apologies

None

C025/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor Kearney reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

C026/20 Chair's Business

Councillor Kerr advised that Shannon Whitehouse had sadly passed away having suffered from cancer. He advised in her last days she had raised upwards of £60,000 for the Boom Foundation and spoke of her courage in facing her illness and the inspiration she had been to so many quoting her as having said, *"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they won't forget how you make them feel."*

Councillor Doris expressed sympathy to Shannon's family and friends and spoke of her grace and acceptance in the face of such a diagnosis and the inspiration she had been to so many.

Councillor Oneill paid his respects to Shannon stating she had been an amazing girl who had left a legacy of hope to her many young friends. He also commended Shannon, her family and friends for the exceptional amount of money raised for the Boom Foundation stating that many would still contribute.

Councillor M Quinn stated he had not known Shannon until recently but spoke of her story, her acceptance of her diagnosis and courage in her last days and stated in the face of such news he could not have done what she had done. He extended sympathy on behalf of the SDLP.

Councillor Wilson stated he had not known Shannon until she had met with the Members of Development Committee two weeks previous when he witnessed at first hand her bravery and that of her family. He stated that thoughts and prayers were with them at this time.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney spoke of how he had met Shannon two weeks previous together with her family and representatives of the Boom Foundation. He stated she bore her illness with great dignity and may she rest in peace.

Councillor Kerr requested that the Chair send a letter of congratulations to Siobhan Trainor on being elected the first lady as Honorary Chair of Philadelphia GAA. He stated that she had grown up on the same estate as himself in Coalisland and the pride he and others felt of her great success in GAA circles in America where she had served for over 35 years as a player, volunteer and supporter.

Resolved That the Chair, send a letter to commend Siobhan Trainor on being elected first lady Honorary Chair of Philadelphia GAA.

Councillor M Quinn highlighted the recent figures released by Invest NI on investor visits of which Mid Ulster district received one. He highlighted the area was third from the bottom with the other two receiving none. He further stated this was an insult given that the district was the capital of engineering in the north. He requested that the Chair send a letter to Invest NI seeking an update on investment figures for the district.

Councillor Colvin stated that he had been a Director of Tyrone Development 30 years ago and appeared that nothing had changed in that time.

Resolved That Council to write to Invest NI seeking an update on investment figures for the district

Councillor Wilson referred to the presentation made by the Northern and Southern Health Social Care Trusts at the November meeting of Council during which future plans for local service provision had been mentioned. He highlighted that as a representative of Cookstown DEA it was noticeable that little reference was made to current or future efforts towards the provision of GP surgeries and/or the development of a medical hub model. He also referred to previous discussions with GPs and local private provider solutions but highlighted that as a public body the Council were not aware of the current status.

Councillor Wilson stated that Cookstown DEA representatives would be aware of discussions on the provision of an all-encompassing medical service hub located on the existing council offices site incorporating adjoining facilities including doctors surgeries, the adult centre and Westland Care Centre, yet in spite of recent presentations to Council he was not convinced there had been any progress on these opportunities.

Highlighting the resolve at the January Council meeting for the Dungannon DEA Members to meet with the Southern Health Trusts to discuss similar matters he stated that it was also appropriate for a meeting to be sought with the most senior officials within the Northern Health Trust and related bodies to assess progress for future health services for Cookstown and surrounding areas.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That Council to write to Northern Health and Social Services Trust and Health and Social Care Board regarding GP Hub for Cookstown

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to the outbreak of Coronavirus and highlighted that it had been announced that a case had now been identified in the north. He stated that although the Audit Committee was not scheduled to meet until 24 March 2020 Coronavirus should be added to the risk register and proposed that in line with Public Health Agency guidelines Council should use its social media platforms to spread the word to the public on how they might protect themselves.

Resolved That Council

- (i) add Coronavirus risk to Corporate Risk Register;
- (ii) use Social Media platforms to inform public on how to protect themselves

The Chair, Councillor Kearney shared that he had attended the months mind Mass at Mullaghbrack in County Armagh of the late Seamus Mallon. He said he was a man of great integrity who had had a life-long commitment to building peace and whilst society had lost the man his legacy would live on.

Councillor Wilson spoke of the recent death of Mr Harry Gregg who was born in Tobermore had become a great goalkeeper and sporting legend. He further spoke of his courage entering a burning plane rescuing fellow teammates and passengers. He concluded speaking of the Harry Gregg Foundation established in 2015 and how the humble man who never forgot his routes will be missed by family and friends.

Councillor Forde concurred stating that he had contributed much to football and was known as a great hero.

Councillor McKinney concurred with previous speakers stating that those he had rescued from the burning plane had included a baby and a pregnant mother.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney concluded that he was a great athlete and statesman.

The Chair Councillor Kearney proposed that in appreciation of the Air Ambulance NI he would host a gala event to raise funds for the charity. He highlighted that there were many competing charities and of how Councillor Ashton had brought the Air Ambulance NI funding before Council. Speaking of the work of the organisation he highlighted how the air ambulance had been used in the district highlighting examples of its use when a council employee had been injured, at the time of an accident in Dungannon when local men, Malachy Cush and Andrew Trotter had been injured. The Chair, spoke of the crew that included a pilot, doctor and paramedic which was available 365 days a year, 12 hours per day that can reach any part of the province within 34 minutes and how over 50% of tasks resulted from serious road accidents. The Chair stated that it was his hope that many would support this event.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That the Chair, Councillor Kearney host a Gala Charity Event in aid of Air Ambulance NI

C027/020 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2020

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 January 2020 (C001/20 – C023/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C028/20 Special Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2020

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 (SP006/20 – SP015/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C029/20 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2020

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to item - PO16/20 LA09/2019/1605/F Installation of play-park with accompanying wet pour, 1.2m high bow top fence and an asphalt concrete path to be installed around the perimeter at lands off Barrack Road and directly adjacent to O'Neill Park, Ballymagaigan for Mid Ulster District Council

Councillor McFlynn advised that Cllr D McPeake and herself had met with residents back in November and sought clarity as to the position of the proposed play park

costing £40,000. She highlighted issues in the area including the position of the park near the boundary wall of housing and lack of parking in the area. She asked if under the power of competence Council could provide car parking, as many could not access their properties. She expressed disappointment in the proposals passed for the position of the play park and highlighted that Council owned the entire piece of ground.

Councillor D McPeake concurred with previous comments and stated that during discussion with the residents, eight parking spaces had been discussed and the play park relocated to another position within the ground mentioned. Councillor D McPeake sought clarity.

Councillor S McPeake stated that in an earlier conversation with the LAG Manager the proposed play park was a successful project.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in PO16/20 LA09/2019/1605/F as a representative on LAG.

Councillor S McPeake stated that any discussion should include Property Services officers and the LAG manager.

Councillor McKinney stated that the play park may only be costing £40,000 but it was a lot more than other areas were receiving. He emphasised that the planning application had been approved thus it simply could not be moved unless there was a further planning application and reiterated it was not within the remit of the meeting to simply move the play area.

Councillor Clarke stated it would be appropriate to have the Planning Manager involved in any conversation in relation to the matter.

Resolved That a meeting be held organised with Members and relevant staff to include Head of Technical Services, LAG Manager, Planning Manager regarding the approved location of aforementioned play park.

Councillor Graham drew attention to Eglish Play Park stating that she had met with residents and highlighted the ongoing situation with the play park in relation to flooding, future plans and proposals and a recent press release which residents say was not accurate. Councillor Graham stated she had made contact with Council officers the previous day who were in the process of arranging a meeting but emphasised that the matter was urgent and spoke of her fear of a child running onto the road.

She suggested that Clogher Valley DEA Members be invited to a meeting being progressed to discuss ongoing issues at Eglish Play Park

Councillor Gildernew stated that this had been an ongoing for a long time and stated that the situation regarding flooding was a problem. He emphasised that the issue of flooding needed addressed first and highlighted that there was substantial funding through LAG for play parks, which would be starting in the near future. He stated

that the situation needed to be resolved but that there was many opinions regarding outcomes.

Councillor McAleer stated that any meeting should include all Clogher DEA Members and concurred with Councillor Gildernew that there were many opinions throughout the area regarding the matter. Councillor McAleer stated there was a play strategy for allocation of the money and stressed that all parties should be represented.

Councillor Burton stated that children's safety must be a priority and concurred with previous speakers that there was mixed opinions in the area but that although there had been a period of exceptionally wet weather the matter needed to progress as soon as possible.

Resolved That Clogher Valley DEA Members be invited to meeting being progressed to discuss ongoing issues at Eglish Play Park

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 (P013/20 – P025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C030/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2020

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *PR030/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024 Consultation Outcome* and stated as previously raised by Councillor Wilson, when final documents were being approved they should form part of the Council papers. He stated Members were being asked to approve a document without the final sight of it and not having been at the Policy & Resources Committee would not be aware of the discussion. He further highlighted the resolve which mentioned proposed changes and stated that he would have an issue with the document being adopted.

Councillor Monteith stated the Corporate Plan did not take cognizance of many issues for example no reference to the anti-poverty strategy, the climate change motion presented to Council a few months ago was mentioned but was down the list and although council had to take climate change into account it was not robust enough. Councillor Monteith sought clarity on the resolution detailed in the minute and stated that it was not appropriate for Council to adopt at this point.

Councillor Wilson stated he did raise the matter previously of documents progressing through committees but not included in the Council papers for the final resolution. He also concurred with Councillor Monteith that Council should not be asked to agree document without having full sight.

The Chief Executive stated he had not been present at the Policy and Resources committee when the matter was being discussed but explained that a committee considers a matter and makes a recommendation to the council to adopt. He stated that the recommendation was clear.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the text which detailed that the Director of Business and Communities was to provide an update and that he was not aware if this had happened.

The Head of Democratic Services advised he had presented the report and that it was his understating that although an update was to be provided the meeting had resolved the adoption of the Corporate Plan. He stated Councillor Ashton had raised the issue in relation to providing an update on 'PUL' community engagement within plans.

Councillor Ashton stated she had raised the matter as there had been a strong response from communities and acknowledged that to date no update had been provided as to whether the Council's Good Relations Programme reflected these.

Councillor McLean concurred with the Head of Democratic Services that the recommendation was not subject to the clarity being provided but he had no issue if the matter was referred back to committee.

Councillor Monteith stated that the resolution could be read two ways but emphasised if you were not at the meeting you would have no way of knowing that the two matters were not linked.

Councillor Molloy stated that he was happy for the matter to come back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That PR030/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Consultation Outcome be referred back to Policy & Resources Committee for further discussion

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Secunder by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February (PR026/20 – PR052/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C031/20 Special Council Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That the Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020 (SC001/20 – SC009/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C032/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E036/20 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 January 2020* highlighting issue in relation to the long-term plan for the recycling facility in Coalisland. He stated that a meeting be held with the Torrent DEA Councillors to discuss the issue in more detail as the area did not want to lose the facility.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That a meeting be held to discuss Recycling Centre, Coalisland with Torrent DEA Councillors

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E046/20 Bus Shelter Collaborative Workshop* and advised he had been unable to attend the meeting but had emailed his responses regarding the matter. He stated that a firmer attitude was required to ensure positive outcomes as constituents were contacting Members regularly. Councillor Kerr proposed that each DEA received a monthly progress report regarding bus shelters.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that he had attended the meeting and since then officers had endeavoured to progress the issues with DfI Roads and Translink, and highlighted, the disconnect was not with officers but with other agencies.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney said that was his recollection also and acknowledged there was problems.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal and stated that he fully accepted there was good work ongoing but it would be good for each DEA to be updated regarding the bus shelters in their area.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that the report should come through the Environment Committee.

Councillor Monteith stated that if this happens going forward it would be acceptable but to date this had not happened.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney asked if Members were happy to progress in good faith that a report would be brought through committee.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed that a report be brought through Environment Committee papers each month.

Councillor McKinney stated that he had attended a meeting at which the DfI and Translink officers had been in attendance but the Education Authority had not attended. He acknowledged that whilst Council staff were working hard to progress some areas were waiting five years to get a bus shelter.

Councillor Monteith stated that he did not mind which way the report was delivered as long as it was on a monthly basis.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

That a monthly report be brought to Environment Committee

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that there were two proposals as undernoted and advised that the meeting discussed had taken place in January.

- (i) to provide a monthly update to DEA Members; or
- (ii) to bring an update to the Environment Committee

Councillor B McGuigan stated that the process should work through the Environment Committee that he could take on board the issues that people have but it would be his view that the officer team should report through the committee.

Councillor Monteith stated there should be an update on each application on a monthly basis but to date this had not happened but he would be happy enough if it come through the Environment Committee.

Councillor Kerr concurred.

Resolved That monthly update on individual bus shelter progress be reported through Environment committee

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 (E026/20 – E062/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C033/20 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2020

Councillor Wilson requested an amendment to the minute at D031/20 Community Development Report. Amendment to minute to read *The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest as Chair of Mid Ulster Pipe Band Association.*

Councillor Burton requested an amendment to the minute at D026/20 Chair's Business. Amendment to minute page two, third paragraph, second sentence to read *"She said that if concerns were raised about overgrown trees and hedges on privately owned property with the DfI Roads they write to them but unless the landowner is willing to co-operate nothing happens"*

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to the minute in relation to the Boom Foundation and acknowledged that Councillor Kerr hoped to bring a notice of motion to highlight

the work of Boom. He stated that everyone had been touched at the meeting when they had met with Shannon and her family and it was important to spread the word and get the message out.

Councillor Wilson concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 13 February 2020 (D024/20 – D044/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C034/20 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- *Lough Neagh Conference – The Way Forward*

Tuesday 10 March 2020 (9.30am-4.30pm) – Lough Neagh Discovery Centre
Travel and subsistence

- *Building the Cross-Border Economy: Post Brexit*

Wednesday 11 March 2020 (9am-1.30pm) – Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk,

- *The Computer Says No: How ‘Welfare’ Algorithms Punish the Poor*

Wednesday 25 March 2020 (5.30pm) – Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast
Campus, Ulster University, York Street, Belfast
Free travel and subsistence
Councillor Molloy

- *NI Housing Conference*

Thursday 26 March 2020 – Titanic, Belfast
Fee: £195+VAT
Travel and subsistence

- *NILGA – Caring Councils: A Local Government Response to Poverty, Addiction and Improving Mental Health*

Friday 27 March 2020 – Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast
Travel and subsistence

- *Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020 – Be Part of Ireland’s Ancient East Brand Growing Your Visitors – Learning from the Best*

Wednesday 22 April 2020 (8.30 am – 2.00 pm) – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford

Fee: €30 plus VAT

Travel and subsistence

- NI Local Partnership on Travellers Issues ‘Pioneering a Brighter Future Together with the Travelling Community’

Thursday 14 May 2020 – Corick House Hotel & Spa, Clogher

Fee: To be confirmed

Councillor D McPeake

(ii) Officer Approvals (retrospective approval)

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| BCNI Fire Safety Conference | 6 February 2020 | 2 | Armagh | Yes |
| The Future of Local Government – NILGA Conference | 20 February 2020 | 1 | Belfast | Yes |
| NI IOT & Industry 4.0 Expo Conference & Exhibition | 27 February 2020 | 1 | Belfast | No |

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee |
|---|---------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| VAT Conference | 4 March 2020 | 1 | London | Yes |
| Climate Change – Our Challenge Conference | 12 March 2020 | 2 | Killeavy | No |
| Lough Neagh Conference | 10 March 2020 | 1 | Lough Neagh | No |

Proposed by Councillor Oneill

Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C035/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report at appendix a and appendix b.

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the four recommendations detailed in Appendix A in relation to the Gaelic Life awards advising that the appendix A, as issued was the draft working copy and thus the wrong version had been inadvertently presented and stated that the recommendation should have read that the four Gaelic Life Awards recipients should receive a letter.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the recommendation in relation to the Principal at Coagh Primary School and stated that he had achieved at the highest level as there was no overall winner and that it had been a Northern Ireland competition as the criteria stated the person had 'won at the highest level'.

In response, the Head of Democratic services stated that the achievement had been 'Best Principal in County Tyrone' thus the rationale for a letter.

Councillor Glasgow expressed his appreciation for the work that goes into the assessment of nominations but reiterated that the principal had achieved at the highest level of the competition and it was disappointing that it was not recognised.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney said he would visit the school personally to commend the achievement.

Councillor Kerr referred to the four Gaelic Life Award recipients and stated he felt they should receive a civic reception drawing the similarity to Ulster Boxing titles and that the people listed on the team were the top 15 players depicted by Gaelic Life which had a province wide readership. Councillor Kerr asked that the nominations are considered for a civic reception.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that the policy would indicate a letter.

Councillor Monteith reflected on previous nominations and said the precedent had been set when Irish News All Stars received civic awards but Tyrone Team Talk a county event received letters thus Gaelic Life should be award level.

Councillor Doris requested that the names of Councillors N McAleer, O'Neill and herself be added to the undernoted nominations:

- St Joseph's College Donaghmore Ulster Championship, Girls - Under 20;
- St Patrick's College, Dungannon BT Young Scientist group,
- St Patrick's Academy Dungannon, Camogie Cup Final

Councillor McFlynn stated that Council had recently granted civic awards to Ulster College Football All Stars and Gaelic Life awards would be similar.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by councillor McFlynn and

That those recipients of Gaelic Life Awards nominated for civic recognition receive civic reception status.

Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity on the rationale used for the determination. In response the Chair, Councillor Kearney said he did not have the rationale at present.

Councillor Wilson sought clarity that nominations he had submitted were in the system.

Councillor Glasgow sought clarity that the awards in relation to Gaelic Life were provincial awards.

Councillor McLean stated that Council needed to review the policy sooner rather than later stating that he was not familiar with Gaelic football to comment but he would be aware that a school principal nominated would have worked extremely hard yet only received a visit from the Chair of Council. He stated that the policy needed to be reviewed.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney suggested a workshop to discuss.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

That a workshop be organised to review the civic awards arrangements.

Councillor S McPeake stated that the matter had been discussed at a recent outside bodies working group and a Civic Recognition Working group was scheduled to be reconvened in the near future.

Approval was sought to approve reception for the Tyrone Milk Cup as detailed at Appendix B of the report.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That an event be hosted to launch the County Tyrone Milk Cup.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn

Resolved That subject to the foregoing, approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

C036/20 Mid South West Region Growth Deal

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report seeking approval for the 'final draft' Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group and to provide an update on the forward work plan. The Chief Executive and Director of Business and Communities delivered presentation (appendix one).

During the presentation Councillor N McAleer left the meeting at 8.05pm and returned at 8.06 pm, Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 8.20 pm returning at 8.24 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked the officers for the in-depth presentation and commended the officers of three participating Councils for their ongoing work.

Councillor Mallaghan said he was chairing the process and was excited at the 'once in a generation' opportunity it was presenting. He highlighted that the pillars detailed in the presentation encompassed much which will be taken into the growth deal stating that there was a great appetite for it, businesses were very keen and his only concern was delivery time that businesses 'lips were wet' and they want to know what can be done now.

Councillor Mallaghan said there was an opportunity to make significant changes in the lives of young people enabling them to live, learn and work at home. He alluded to scepticism in relation to local colleges but emphasised that this provided the opportunity to design required courses and be a game changer for the Mid South West Region. He concluded saying the presentation was also being delivered to fellow participating Councils in Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and proposed that Council grant approval.

Councillor Black commended officers on the presentation stating that their enthusiasm speaks volumes and asked how far the £300m would go to delivering and how much more would be needed.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that the New Decade, New Approach was being fully costed. He stated there would be £163m for Mid South West and Causeway Coast and Glens and that funding would be matched by Stormont and contribution from Councils. He reminded Members of the Director of Business and Communities comments regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund, peace plus consultation which leads to Peace and INTEREG funding which should position Council better. The Chief Executive stated that the proposal and outcomes had to be world class, would take 12-18 months to develop and a number of years before it was all on the ground highlighting that design work on Cookstown bypass was happening now but in all there was much work to be done.

Councillor McLean seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal stating that the work of Mid South West was an eye-opener, that work to date had been phenomenal and the appetite for the deal was encouraging. He stated the work was across the three council areas and all parties working to focus on what can potentially be delivered which was not just for tomorrow but many tomorrows. Councillor McLean stated whilst there is enthusiasm and excitement and strengths had been identified he felt it did not sell Mid Ulster well enough but even with the weaknesses identified there was much potential.

Councillor McFlynn left the meeting at 8.41 pm returning at 8.42 pm

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 8.42pm

Councillor Wilson concurred with previous speakers and stated that the whole idea is to get the plans on paper but that the hard work would now commence. He commended the work of the officers and the Members that sit on the team and foresight of the businesses that fed into the process who have high expectations but understand delivery times.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 8.45 pm

Councillor Monteith commended the opportunity to view the economic strategy of which a large section focused on infrastructure. He spoke of private business input but emphasised there was a large section of the community not spoken or thought of such as people stuck in low paid jobs, rented accommodation with no hope of buying their own home. He stated there was no opportunity for them or older people highlighting that people in their late 50s had often to come out of manual employment and thanks to Stormont austerity the pension age had risen to 67 and maybe 70 when further Stormont endorsed Tory policies come in. Councillor Monteith mentioned childcare and stated that productivity could not be discussed without accessible childcare. He also stated that there was no mention of retail and that the document did not even acknowledge the dangers faced there.

Councillor Doris returned to the meeting at 8.47 pm

Councillor Monteith stated as a socialist he was nervous when big businesses expressed support, he said many parts were good but much had been left unsaid.

Councillor Colvin stated that it was a fantastic piece of work with a very broad approach highlighting opportunities for connections in tourism and infrastructure. Councillor Colvin said projects should be weighted and prioritised and the ongoing works would require focus.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney responded stating that weighting and prioritising would be in action plan stage.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the proposal.

| | |
|-----------|----|
| For | 36 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstained | 3 |

Proposed by councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That approval be given to:

- 1) The final draft Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group.
- 2) Endorse ongoing engagement with Central Government in Whitehall and Stormont regarding the structure and flexibility required in relation

to the profile of the UK Government's investment in a growth deal for the Mid South West Region.

Councillor Bell left the meeting at 8.50 pm

Matters for Information

C037/20 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- Patron of Ancre Somme Association based at Brownlow House, Lurgan
- Clerk to the Clerking & Member Support - Northern Ireland Assembly
- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down DC. It was agreed that a letter of support be provided to request for an urgent upgrade of A1 Junction.

Councillor Bell returned to the meeting at 8.51pm

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That Council provide a letter of support be provided to request an urgent upgrade of A1 Junction.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to correspondence received from Ancre Somme Association and proposed that Council through Property Services and Community Development work with communities wishing to be involved in the campaign.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That Council through Property Services and Community Development work with communities wishing to be involved in the campaign

Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting.

Councillor Doris welcomed correspondence regarding the PIP appeals stating that use of Court House accommodation was intimidating for those in attendance.

Councillor Mallaghan returned to the meeting at 8.52 pm

Resolved That Council note the correspondence report.

C038/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster Council District Council

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the Hate Crime Review Team: Independent Review of legislation for dealing with hate crime in Northern Ireland and proposed that Council respond through Policing & Community Safety Partnership

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That Council respond through Policing and Community Safety Partnership to the Hate Crime Review Team: Independent Review of legislation for dealing with hate crime in Northern Ireland.

Resolved That Council note report on Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

C039/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Brown moved motion undernoted

That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agriculture industry is in a state of crisis due to unprecedented low farm-gate prices.

Mid Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved Government and the British Government to invest in Local Farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.

We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and the food service industry.

That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible”.

Councillor Brown spoke at length on the motion stating,

“Agriculture is one of Northern Ireland’s most important industries. The agri-food industry turns over more than £4.5 billion every year and supports one in eight jobs in the UK, making it a cornerstone of Northern Ireland’s economy and farmers play a key role in this.

Currently, there are over 25,000 farm businesses in Northern Ireland producing the wide variety of raw materials needed by processors and retailers to meet the demands of consumers. According to the Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland results for June 2019 there are 4,144 farms across Mid Ulster: Very Small 3235, Small 454, Medium 221 and Large 234 employing a total of 7,809.

This figure does not include those who are employed in businesses such as Dale Farm, Dunman and Karro Food Group, Cookstown.

Farming in Northern Ireland is not just a job; coming from a farming family, I know and understand it is a way of life and we are extremely proud of our family farming structure. Our rural communities are extremely close knit and farming families are at the heart of our communities.

When you compare Northern Ireland to the other UK regions, and in fact the rest of Europe, we are a region that punches above its weight when it comes to farming. Beef, sheep, and dairy would be the largest commodity sectors in Northern Ireland, but we also have impressive pig, poultry, cereal, fruit, potato, and vegetable sectors.

Many of our local farmers are forward thinking and innovative and are at the forefront of their sectors when it comes to farming practices, technology, supplier relationships and getting their products directly to consumers.

Profitability and market volatility remain the two biggest issues facing farmers. Over the last few years volatility in the prices paid to farmers for their produce has caused significant problems for the industry. Often, farmers see their profits squeezed by other partners in the supply chain and market volatility across sectors has wreaked havoc with farm gate prices.

As the Senior Agriculture Manager from Ulster Bank stated in a recent newspaper article (Farmweek 20th February 2020), and I quote:

“According to DAERA, the ‘Total Income from Farming’ (TIFF) in Northern Ireland fell by 25% from £368 million in 2018 to £290 million in 2019. This isn’t a profit figure but rather the income earned by farmers as a result of their labour and the capital they have invested in their business.

This is a significant drop and if the rest of society had to absorb a 25% hit on their income there would be uproar. The £290 million figure equates to the money received as direct payments under the Common Agricultural Payments. Without this payment, the income figure would be zero.

The wider population rightly demands good quality food, produced to high standards and with minimal damage to the environment. It equally demands that food be cheap, and always available, with little thought given to the long-term sustainability of the primary producer of that food.

The market has not delivered any increase in income in real terms. Farmers will quote today’s milk, beef, grain prices and remember getting the same price / litre of kg of beef 20 or 30 years ago. It is not sustainable for society to expect that farmers provide food at below the cost of production while at the same time meet all necessary commitments needed to manage climate change. If society is serious about the effects of climate change, then they must be concerned

about how food production has become devalued and that farmers cannot sustain an income drop of 25 per cent.”

It would seem obvious perhaps that we would buy local produce, but it isn't always the case, therefore it is more important than ever to champion what our local farmers do and the hard work that goes into producing quality foods. The farming industry is highly regulated, and it is important that we remind consumers that local farmers work to some extremely stringent standards. This gives me confidence that fresh, locally produced produce should remain top of the shopping list. We should be checking for the Red Tractor logo, as products bearing it have been independently inspected to accredited standards and are traceable from farm to pack. Local shops, restaurants, supermarkets and even ourselves here in Mid Ulster District Council have an important role to play in rebuilding consumer confidence in the local farming industry too. By supporting local farmers and the food they produce, it means that the food you eat is grown and produced in your local area, and that the money you spend for that food benefits local farmers and producers.

Whether it be a Leg of Lamb from Lissan, or a Chunky Chicken from Culnady a Porker Pig from Pomeroy, or a Beef Brisket from Ballygawley Whether it be Turnips from Tobermore, or Milk from Megargy, each one plays a vital role in our agricultural processes.

Locally grown food tastes better because it has had less time in transit and/or less time to sit around. Locally grown food is good for the environment, for sustainability and reduces our carbon footprint.

I therefore ask you to support this motion and encourage our Council to take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible in our facilities and to support the Agriculture Minister as he would seek to work with local farmers and the industry regarding Brexit, and to press our Government and the British Government in relation to the future farm subsidies, for our farmers. We as a District have so much to offer to our community when it comes to our agricultural sector”

In conclusion, Councillor Brown proposed the motion.

Councillor Robinson seconded the motion concurring with Councillor Brown's comments and added that it was difficult to encourage young men to enter farming if there was not a viable return. He stated it was a 24/7 job and referring to earlier discussions regarding the air ambulance emphasised that it could be a dangerous one highlighting far safety and making mention of the slurry season commencing if the weather allowed.

Councillor S McPeake proposed an amendment adding the 'Irish' as undernoted.

'Mid-Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British (and Irish) Government to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to

help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.'

Councillor S McPeake in proposing the amendment stated,

"As someone who comes from a farming background myself, I support the ethos of the motion in that I fully understand the importance that farming is and has been for sustaining generations in our rural areas. I do recognise the challenges that farmers currently face in attempting to achieve realistic and sustainable farm gate prices for the top quality produce that they send to market. Farming has now developed into a major industry where the numbers of full-time farmers has dwindled year on year with the size of farming units themselves increasing. No more the small family holding which self produced food for the family table with surplus products sold in the neighbouring market town.

Farming has become significantly mechanised with major financial capital investment into livestock, farm buildings and machinery. Farmers here are producing foods to the very highest standards with quality assurance and traceability levels second to none anywhere within these islands. In what should be a rewarding situation for our farmers achieving these high standards it is in fact turning out into the opposite for them. The market place is becoming more specialised and controlled with fewer buyers who are wielding significantly more 'clout'. The conglomerates of the big processing plants and the major supermarket chains are squeezing farming profit margins. Gone is the day when farmers could leverage the additional costs that they would require simply to keep up with increased output costs in order to turn a sustainable profit.

Whilst the ever increasing input costs of which the farmer has little or no control over, spirals unabated, the farmer doesn't have the means to seek an increase in farm gate price just to break level. The most recent figures that I have seen from DEFRA show that farm incomes have fallen by 24% in the last financial year.

Crucial to the prospects of farmers here being able to trade profitably in the future is securing the marketplace and as wide and varied and as open a marketplace such as they can. A quarter of all the milk that is produced here in the north (approximately 800m litres) is transported to south for processing. Most of the sheep sold from here end up in the south. Approximately half a million pigs are imported from the south each year where most of these end up being processed in Cookstown. Many milk and cereal products have crossed the border many times before ending up in the market place shelves. The levels of interchanging and cross border activities relating to the sale and processing of our food products is huge.

And that is why many, not least those from the farming community have been puzzled in recent years by the position taken by the DUP to strongly advocate for Brexit. Now we have a motion coming from the same party here tonight are seeking the stops to be pulled out now in an effort to save the farming and agri

food industry. I welcome that fact but I fail to understand why a party would be supportive of adding to the present uncertainties of an already stressed sector in cutting off of markets that will inevitably lead to more difficulties being placed upon the agriculture and agriculture-foods sectors that are so vital to our economy here.

To be sustainable the family farm needs all the support that it can get at this time. With the average of farmers here in the north at 59 years of age I welcome the new farmer payment schemes offering incentives for young people to enter into the farming tradition. We need more of that. We need rural communities backing our farmers and using local produce whenever they can. I welcome that aspect within the motion that we as a council sources and promotes local farm produce where we can. In fact this motion to Council that is in front of us tonight is in fact almost identical to the one which was penned by my colleague in Fermanagh/Omagh District Council a few weeks ago. The only difference that I can see in it is that the proposer has (maybe mistakenly) omitted to include the Irish government in that element of the motion that on that night received unanimous all party support. I would respectfully ask the proposer to include the Irish government along with other institutions as the nature of the difficulties that we face is a collective difficulty for the entire sector. The stand taken by the farmers protesting outside the meat plants across the south late last year resonated with many farmers in the north who were being squeezed by the might of those powerful meat plants. The same problems pertain in the north. In the period ahead when we will have no MEP's in the North at the EU negotiating table and with a Brexit trade agreement so crucial for the agriculture and agriculture-food sectors in the island of Ireland it is crucial that the Irish government is there to support the industry across the Island of Ireland given that agricultural processing is organised on an all-Ireland basis."

Councillor S McPeake concluded that Sinn Féin was happy to support the motion with the amendment that we include the Irish Government as a stakeholder within any representations on this issue. He also highlighted that all parties in Fermanagh & Omagh Council had approved the same motion.

Councillor S McAleer left the meeting during the aforementioned proposal at 9.01pm and returned at 9.04 pm

Councillor McFlynn left the meeting during the aforementioned proposal at 9.03 pm returning at 9.05 pm

In response to Councillor McKinney's comment the Chair, stated that he must deal with one amendment at a time.

Councillor Clarke seconded Councillor S McPeake's amendment.

Declaration of Interest - Cllr Clarke indicated a declaration of interest in his capacity as a farmer.

A copy of the amendment was distributed.

Councillors Monteith and Kerr left the meeting at 9.09 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney drew attention to the amendment which added the word Irish into the motion.

Councillor Brown indicated that he would accept the amendment and was aware that the Minister for DEARA had engaged on the matter.

Declaration of Interest - The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared an interest as he had formed part of a delegation that had engaged with the Dublin government on the same matter.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared that the amendment was accepted and now became the substantive motion.

Declaration of Interest - Councillor McKinney declared an interest as a farmer.

Councillor McKinney posed the question in relation to the second paragraph as to which department the money should be taken from to fund the proposal.

Councillor McKinney proposed a further amendment to the second paragraph of the motion as undernoted:

‘Mid Ulster council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British Government to invest in local farmers by making support available to farmers who are producing the primary produce eg beef, lamb, poultry, milk, pork and arable’

Councillor Glasgow seconded the motion concurring with previous speakers on the importance of farming to the economy highlighting trading standard marks such as the ‘Red Tractor’ and ‘British Lion’ and how the standards of Northern Ireland farmers was renowned throughout the world. He further highlighted the importance of the farmers marts in Mid Ulster and that he had previously moved a motion in relation to the milk crisis

A copy of the proposed amendment was tabled.

Councillor Ashton on a point of order asked had the motion not already been carried with Councillor S McPeake’s amendment.

It was clarified that this was now a further amendment.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney sought clarity on the proposed amendment which omitted the last paragraph of the substantive motion.

Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 9.24 pm

Councillor McKinney stated that the last paragraph should remain in the amendment to the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the proposed amendment.

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| For | 5 |
| Against | 23 |
| Abstained | 2 |

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the amendment fell

The Chair, Councillor Kearney referred back to substantive motion as amended by Councillor S McPeake and called for a vote.

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| For | 30 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstained | 0 |

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried as undernoted:

“That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agricultural industry is in a state of crisis due to the unprecedented low farm gate prices.

Mid-Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British and Irish Governments to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.

We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and for the food service industry.

That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible”

Councillor Cuthbertson sought clarity on procedure stating that he had not voted on the second amendment as he had not received a copy of it stressing that this was not the fault of the Officer, as 40 copies had not been lodged prior to the meeting.

Councillors McLean and Buchanan left the meeting at 9.26pm

C040/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Doris speaking on the motion stated,

“As most people in this Council will already be aware, on the 18th December Noel Sweeney was driving home from work and was tragically killed by a fallen branch from a tree. This was a massive shock to the community of Coalisland and surrounding areas. Noel was full of life a real joker and I can never remember seeing him in a bad mood. He was a great community man

volunteering for many charities and coaching Coalisland Athletic Football club. He was not only a coach but a mentor to many and kept many of the young lads out of trouble and on the right path. Three weeks after Noel's tragic accident another tree came down onto the exact same road that Noel was killed on but thankfully it did not hurt or injure anyone. From the second incident occurred, despite her grief Noel's daughter Helen has been tirelessly campaigning to ensure that some other family don't have to suffer the loss that she has had in losing her daddy. While as a Council we have a limited power over removing dangerous trees that are located On private land I believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can to support Helen in her efforts and lobby the executive and relevant departments to do what they can to prevent tragic accidents from taking place in the future."

Councillor Doris concluded by moving the motion as follows,

That this Council acknowledges the important role landowners and TNI play to ensure our roads are safe to travel on. However, on some occasions more can be done to prevent danger to the public. I therefore propose that this council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that inspections of dangerous trees along roads receive additional resources to prevent tragic incidents

Councillor Oneill seconded the motion commending his fellow Councillor for bringing the matter before Council. He advised that Francie Molloy MP had been in touch with the road service and also noted that more trees had been removed by landowners at their own accord and acknowledged this action stating that it would be a comfort Helen, Sharon, Aaron and the wider Sweeney family.

Councillor Burton concurred that it was an important issue which cannot be emphasised enough and stated that the Minister for Infrastructure should be lobbied to have legislation changed that they are permitted to remove dangerous trees as one life lost is too many. She further highlighted trees in her own area which would be down if it were not for telephone and electric cables supporting them.

Councillor Gildernew concurred stating that he had lobbied for years with regard to the trees aforementioned and if as he had been advised they were within the ownership of Transport NI they should be dealt with.

Councillor Colvin stated that his late father had always said there should not be a tree within 40 foot of the county road. He said the motion was a good one which the UUP would support but there had to be a will to enforce legislation.

Councillor Hughes stated that the SDLP would support the motion and thanked Councillor Doris for bringing it forward. She advised that Councillor Quinn had worked with the Sweeney family since the incident.

Councillor McKinney stated that he too supported the motion and commended local farmers who lifted trees which had fallen on Monday following the snow as Transport NI had been unable to remove them all.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney sought clarity from Councillor Burton as to whether her statement regarding lobbying the Department of Infrastructure was to be considered as an amendment as most appeared to be content with the motion.

Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 9.35 pm

The Chair Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the motion

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| For | 32 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstained | 0 |

C041/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Wilson moved motion as undernoted –

That this Council writes to Steve Barnett, Assistant Director of Operations at the Royal British Legion (RBL), Johnny Mercer MP Minister for Defence People and Veterans and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the Cabinet Office expressing our disappointment at the proposed closure of Bennet House, Portrush. The Council notes the integral support and respite this facility has provided to many residents from our district and calls upon the Ministers to engage with the RBL to ensure a sustainable solution is brought forward to retain this vital service.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 9.37 pm

Speaking on the motion Councillor Wilson stated it was not the aim to score political points but highlighted the importance of the service and the vital role played in supporting the service community in Northern Ireland. He referred to many discussions regarding mental health issues and stressed the importance of the vital role Bennett House played in offering respite.

Councillor Glasgow seconded the motion.

Councillor Black said that party colleagues had been in touch with Steve Barnett, had attended protests and engaged with local branches of the Royal British Legion as this was the only service delivery of this nature in Northern Ireland. He said that many continue to bear the scars today of their service especially the families of those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. Councillor Black said the DUP would support the motion.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that he considered the matter an internal one for the Royal British Legion as there was no requirement for the government to provide funding and thus Sinn Féin would not support the motion.

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 9.39 pm

Councillor McFlynn stated that any society or association that offers respite to residents should be supported.

Councillor Hughes returned to the meeting at 9.40 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote

For 16
Against 17
Abstained 0

The Chair Councillor Kearney stated that the motion falls.

C042/20 Notice of Motion

The Chair, Councillor Kearney advised that Councillor McFlynn would move the motion.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if this was in line with standing orders.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to Standing Order 16.1.

Councillor McFlynn stated the motion should have been submitted in her name.

Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.40 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that it was his understanding that Councillor McFlynn was to move the motion.

Councillor McFlynn moved motion as undernoted.

That this Council welcomes the announcement from the Infrastructure Minister that an additional £3m will be allocated to fixing street lights and filling potholes in our roads; notes the positive impact that fixing these problems will have on the lives of ratepayers; further notes the severe pressure on maintenance budgets; and agrees to write to the Minister for Finance to outline the need for additional resource to tackle these and other pressures that are vital for improving lives across our communities

Councillor McFlynn stated that the motion speaks for itself and took the opportunity to extend thanks to the local staff who do what they can on the ground although they are greatly restricted with lack of budget. The Councillor highlighted that all Members constantly highlighted pot holes and street lights not working and although welcomed the LED lights being installed in the district stated that more funding was needed highlighting the examples of bypasses and water upgrades all to improve the life of people in the district. Councillor McFlynn stressed the need to continue to lobby for funding for Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Hughes seconded the motion. The Councillor advised that daily she had to contact the sub-sections offices of the Department of Infrastructure to be told that currently there was no budget to complete the works but it is hoped the budget deficit will be remedied in the near future.

Councillor Cuthbertson welcomed the investment but stated that across 11 Council areas £3m would not go very far highlighting that just three weeks ago it was reported that over 800 street lights were out, the pot holes were starting to form with the bad weather and whilst he was not criticising the motion much more was needed in relation to road safety measures including dangerous junctions and footpath provision. He stated that DfI had to look down a long list and pick one to complete as that was all they had a budget for.

Councillor Colvin said there was a formidable backlog for street lighting across the Mid Ulster region some of which were outside primary schools which led to health and safety issues. He stated that the money allocated was not adequate and whilst DfI personnel were doing the best job they can £3m would not touch it.

Councillor Glasgow welcomed the motion and stated whilst £3m appeared to be a large sum it was not adequate but was better than nothing. He also referred to discussion at a recent meeting of NILGA at which best value for money should be a determine for new policies in relation to fixing rural roads and highlighted that further investment was required to ensure rural communities are not cut off from big towns. He highlighted that everyone needed to lobby regarding the issue even though the response was the usual script of lack of money. Councillor Glasgow concluded stating that the current Minister had great ambition but the motion was welcome.

Councillor Bell stated that Sinn Féin welcomed the additional funding allocated by the Minister of Finance Conor Murphy for the DfI to address issues of defective roads and street lighting but stated that the local section offices don't see the benefit of it. He emphasised that Council should be seeking clarification on how the DfI would be allocating the funding.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that currently the section office was delivering the best service possible with limited resources but the bottom line was the budget was not there.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote.

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| For | 32 |
| Against | 0 |
| Abstained | 0 |

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 9.50 pm

Proposed by Councillor Oneill
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That items (C043/20-C052/20) be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 23 January 2020
- (ii) Special Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 30 January 2020
- (iii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 6 February 2020
- (iv) Special Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2020
- (v) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2020
- (vi) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2020
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Lease of lands situated at Somme Park, Killyman, between NIHE and Mid Ulster District Council
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Licence of a 3G Synthetic Pitch at Aughnacloy College, 23 Carnteel Road, Aughnacloy, between The Education Authority and Mid Ulster District Council
- (iv) Document for Sealing: Lease with the Church of Ireland for Lands at Maghera (Footpath and Walled Garden)

C053/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.52 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Mallaghan, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin (7.05 pm), Cuthbertson, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McEvoy, Head of Development Plan
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Applicant Speakers

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| LA09/2018/1213/O | Tess Maginess |
| LA09/2018/1213/O | Sara Tinsley |
| LA09/2018/1213/O | Mark Wilson |
| LA09/2018/1213/O | Stephen Houlihan |
| LA09/2019/0928/F | Gemma Jobling |
| LA09/2019/1131/F | Ryan Dougan |
| LA09/2019/0539/O | Chris Cassidy |
| LA09/2019/1402/O | Chris Cassidy |

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

P026/20 Apologies

Councillor Gildernew.

P027/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in Agenda Item 4.2 – LA09/2018/1213/O – Capper Trading Ltd

Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in Agenda Item 5.9 – LA09/2019/1148/O – Thomas David James Harkness.

P028/20 Chair's Business

The Planning Manager updated members on issues from last meeting and referred to the matter of the Ulster Farmers' Union launching a legal challenge against Shared Environmental Services (SES) and their decision to change planning rules for assessing

ammonia for farm applications without any warning or consultation. He advised that SES were withdrawing the guidance as a consequence and that the challenge would therefore be withdrawn. This Council was accessing each application on its own merits taking into account the risks as presented. He stated that in due course DAERA and Environment Agency would have to collate some guidance on a way forward as this was a very delicate situation. He said that concerns around livestock houses etc will cause many problems in the interim and that as a consequence he had set up special group meetings with team leads to go through any issues which may arise regarding the intensive housing of cattle, pigs, hens and sheep and members can be rest assured that all issues would be addressed.

Councillor McKinney referred to the letter sent to the Ulster Farmer's Union and wanted to thank the Planning Manager and the committee for their support as this may elevate the pressure and help with the struggle of these issues.

Councillor Colvin entered the meeting at 7.05 pm.

The Planning Manager referred to item 3 on circulated addendum regarding correspondence received from Planning Appeals Commission setting a date for Hearing in respect of Upperlands application (H/2009/0264/O, H/2009/0270/F and H/2009/0271/LB). He advised that he was disappointed that the Department didn't answer any queries which were previously raised.

Matters for Decision

P029/20 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting/submission of further information/withdrawn –

Agenda Item 4.5 – LA09/2019/0944/F – Infill dwelling and garage between 90 & 92 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin (retrospective) and new access laneway 130m W from the junction of Iniscarn/Gortahurk Road

Agenda Item 4.7 – LA09/2019/1119/O – Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx. 50m W of 62 Reclain Road, Dungannon

Agenda Item 4.9 – LA09/2019/1157/F – Part retrospective domestic garage shed with extension of curtilage at 5 Jacksons Drive, Gulladuff

Agenda Item 4.13 – LA09/2019/1540/O – Infill dwelling and garage between 29 and 31 Macknagh Lane, Maghera

Agenda Item 4.14 - LA09/2019/1597/O – 2 Infill Dwellings, between 39 & 47 Cookstown Road, Dungannon

Agenda Item 4.15 – LA09/2019/1649/O – Dwelling and domestic garage at site to the rear of NW of 20 Aghaginduff Road, Dungannon for Mr Dessie Donnelly

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above for deferral be deferred for an office meeting/submission of further information/to consider additional information received.

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2017/1676/F 1 detached dwelling and garage and 4 semi-detached dwellings with car parking and new access onto Station Road at 32 Station Road, Magherafelt for MCL Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1676/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/1676/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2018/1213/O Agri Development Hub for processing, research and development facility and agri-business/logistics centre, associated access, parking landscape and environmental enhancement works at lands at Tamnamore, N of the M1 motorway, W of Annaghbeg Road/Junction 14 for Capper Trading Ltd

The Planning Manager drew members attention to item 4.2 of circulated agenda providing copy of letter of support from Arlene Foster MLA in support of the application.

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/1213/O which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the applications had been received by a few people/agents and invited Ms Maginess to address the committee in the first instance.

Ms Maginess advised that she would be speaking against the application tonight but wanted to say that she wasn't against the ongoing employment element and wanted to wish her neighbour well. She referred to the letter from Minister Arlene Foster and felt that a planning process should be followed by the local authority and an outside influence shouldn't be involved in local matters.

She stated that within the case officer's report it was indicated that part of the proposed site was located within the 1 to 100 year flood plain, but said that this could be resolved by applying conditions to provide permeable surfaces to allow for early warning systems in the event of flooding. She felt that this was inaccurate as the Rivers Agency were not content as it didn't meet their criteria. In referring to correspondence from DfI Roads she

stated that the application did not allow access onto the public highway which also demonstrated a negatively worded statement and lack of detail.

Ms Maginess said that the road and parking area were not stable for use as the existing land was bog and liable to flooding. She said that the report had indicated that conditions would be applied to access the risk of flooding and flood plain but enquired who was going to police this and also the lack of empathy for neighbouring properties due to large lorries and noise pollution. She also stated this would also have a negative effect regarding the pond area.

Ms Maginess raised concern about her personal data being breached in this instance and when she sought expert advice, she was told that she should have been given prior notice as there was no justification for this being used.

The Chair welcomed Ms Tinsley and Mr Wilson to address the committee.

Ms Tinsley advised members that she was going to speak in support of the application and said that she welcomed the positive recommendation for the proposed Agri Development hub which adhered to the scheme of the policy and allowed Capper Trading Ltd to progress into a new and innovative way in the supply of animal feed which was within a close proximity of their address.

Ms Tinsley stated that this was fantastic news for the regional economy as it allowed for the creation of 40 additional jobs and £83k rates revenue for the Council. She said that amendments were made to the proposal to allow for reorganisation and appropriate mitigation purposes so that there was no detrimental effect to the protected and natural heritage environment.

The Planning Manager in reply to a comment regarding the support of the development as it was regionally important, stated that officers do not consider regional importance when making their decision and take each application on its own merit, but welcomed the opportunity for people to speak so clarity can be sought.

He said that Arlene Foster had written the letter of support as an MLA which she was quite entitled to do and not under the credentials as First Minister and felt that this needed to be addressed. He said that he had sat around the table with MPs and MLAs and had Ms Foster written the letter on behalf of a party we would have concerns, but she hadn't done that.

In referring to response from DfI regarding carparking, he said that this was nothing to do with a planning decision and more of a means of securing the policy and a matter of negotiation between the applicant and Roads Service.

The Planning Manager in referring to comments about the flood plain and duck pond, stated that it was his understanding that the buildings had been kept out of the flooding area and if the situation does arise regarding an issue of flooding, conditions are in place to overcome any concerns. He said that based on consultations with the Rivers Agency, they had not raised any concerns regarding flooding dangers to neighbouring properties and policy stated that it allowed for certain infrastructure, the policy was silent on whether this included carparks. Levels were not being raised and no playparks etc in the area. In relation to carparks it should be remembered vehicles can be moved on the basis.

He said that in relation to data protection, he advised that this was outside planning committee remit and if the objector felt that there was a breach, they could write into the Council but was confident that everything was above board and no breach had occurred.

Councillor McKinney enquired if this was a last-minute objection as he wasn't aware of any others.

Ms Doyle advised that there were four letters of objection in total.

The Planning Manager advised that he was aware of concerns people have regarding the impact of this hub having on local properties but wanted to assure the committee that the case officer had evaluated all objections and considered all issues which were raised.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2018/1213/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0313/F 5 detached & 12 no. semi-detached dwellings, detached garage, car parking, landscaping, retaining walls and all other associated site works including temporary treatment works, at lands to the NE of 3 Old Omagh Road, Ballygawley for Dr J Gormley

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0313/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0313/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0928/F Retention of existing re-sited dwelling (M/2014/0585/F) and retention of associated ancillary works at lands at 67 Glenhoy Road, Ballygawley & approx. 100m SW of 68 Glenhoy Road, Ballygawley for Keith Gladney

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0928/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0928/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0944/F Infill dwelling and garage between 90 and 92 Iniscarn Road, Desertmartin (retrospective) and new access laneway 130m W from the junction of Iniscarn/Gortahurk Road for Paul Bradley

Agreed that application be deferred for one month for additional information.

LA09/2019/1110/F Retention of temporary waste storage yard at site 70m W of 39 Cullenramer Road, Greystone, Dungannon for Mr Sean McCaul

The Head of Development Management presented report on planning application LA09/2019/0110/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor McKinney left the meeting at 7.33 pm and returned at 7.35 pm.

Councillor Colvin advised that environmental matters were very important and would be happy to accept the Officer's recommendation for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1110/F be refused.

LA09/2019/1119/O Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx 50m W of 62 Reclain Road, Dungannon for Ms Margaret Donnelly

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1131/F Demolition of existing boundary wall and erection of new boundary wall to church graveyard at 48 Main Street, Bellaghy, Magherafelt for Ballyscullion Parish Church, Church of Ireland c/o Wesley Davidson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1131/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1131/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1157/F Part retrospective domestic storage shed with extension of curtilage at 5 Jacksons Drive, Gulladuff for Paul McGarvey

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1362/O Dwelling and garage at site 25m SE of 90 Moneymore Road, Magherafelt for Ian Henry

Members considered previously circulated report and planning application LA09/2019/1362/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1362/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1412/O Site of dwelling and detached garage at 500m SE of 19 Drumimerick Road, Kilrea for Mr M Kelso

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1412/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1412/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1510/F Amendment to condition No. 2 of LA09/2018/1632/F (reduction in 1 No. sight splay from 2.4 x 60m to 2.4m to 33m) at land approx. 29m SE of the junction of Ballydermot and Drumanee Road, Bellaghy for Mid Ulster District Council

All Members declared an interest in application LA09/2019/1510/F.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1510/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1510/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1540/O Infill dwelling and garage between 29 and 31 Macknagh Lane, Maghera for Mr Pdraig McGuigan

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1597/O 2 infill dwellings, between 39 & 47 Cookstown Road, Dungannon for Mr Colm McCann

Agreed that application be deferred for one month for additional information.

LA09/2019/1649/O Dwelling & domestic garage at site to the rear of NW of 20 Aghaginduff Road, Dungannon for Mr Dessie Donnelly

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1658/F New hard surfaced MUGA with multi use goals, fencing boundary, improved lighting and associated site works adjacent to 70 Main Street, Castledawson for Ms Joanne McGurk

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1658/F which had a recommendation for approval.

All members declared interest in planning application LA09/2019/1658/F.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1658/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2017/1717/F Dwelling and garage on a farm at lands 250m E of 107 Dunamore Road, Cookstown for Mr T Loughran

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1717/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2017/1717/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0017/O Dwelling and garage, 100m SW of 48 Tirgan Road, Carncose, Moneymore for P O'Neill and C Hall

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0017/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in planning application LA09/2019/0017/O.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0017/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/0334/F One year retention of temporary dwelling at 24 Derryveen Crescent, Granville, Dungannon for Mr Ronnie Smyth

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in planning application LA09/2019/0334/F.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0334/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0334/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Chair advised that requests had been made for further extensions for three Deferred Applications on the list tonight and advised that this was a matter for the committee to decide whether they agreed to these requests or not on the following applications:

- Agenda Item 5.4 – LA09/2019/0475/O
- Agenda Item 5.6 – LA09/2019/1045/O
- Agenda Item 5.8 – LA09/2019/1090/F

Planning applications seeking further deferral:

- Agenda Item 5.4 – LA09/2019/0475/O – Phase 1 housing development at lands opposite 2 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Tobermore Concrete

The Council Solicitor advised that if additional information was being proposed to be put forward, then it would be appropriate for the Committee to defer to allow consideration of same. However, it should not be delayed indefinitely or for an inordinate amount of time to allow additional information to be submitted.

The Planning Manager said that on one application information had been requested in writing on four different occasions and when they were put to the committee previously, opportunity was provided for further information to be submitted.

In response to Planning Manager's concern on agenda item 5.4 – LA09/2019/0475/O, the Mr Cassidy (agent) advised that due to adverse weather conditions, it was impossible to get the relevant evidence required and both reports collated.

The Planning Manager advised that it was up to members to use their discretion when making the decision on whether to agree to a further extension or not.

Councillor Brown enquired if the committee accepts the request to further defer these three applications, does this set a precedent which must be followed as it could be seen as giving some agents an advantage over some others.

The Planning Manager said that it was important that the committee shows impartiality amongst all people making requests.

Mr Cassidy (agent) stated that he had one report but was still waiting on one to be completed by an associate on noise and this was proving difficult within the timeframe due to harsh weather conditions.

Councillor Glasgow said that it was important to keep everyone on the same level and proposed deferring the application for 30 days for further information with the Planning Manager's word being taken on board.

The Planning Manager felt that it would be more appropriate having a six-week timeframe rather than a 30 day one if members were in agreement. Councillor Glasgow said that he would be happy to withdraw his original proposal and agree to a six-week timeframe as suggested by the Planning Manager.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0475/O be deferred for six weeks for additional information.

- Agenda Item 5.6 – LA09/2019/1045/O – Dwelling and domestic garage/store at 130m NW of 27 Tirnaskea Road, Pomeroy for Mr Mick Mallon

The Planning Manager advised that deferral was requested for an office meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1045/O be deferred for an office meeting.

- Agenda Item 5.8 – LA09/2019/1090/F – Isolation shed for animals and storage machinery at approx. 165m NW of 81 Kinturk Road, lower Mullan, Cookstown for Mr Eamonn Maynes

The Planning Manager said that when he went through the application, there was nothing in it which warranted a deferral as there were lots of things outstanding which most likely would never be resolved and recommended refusing the application.

The Chair asked members if they would they be happy to defer the application or prefer to keep it on the schedule to hear more details later in the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1090/F be kept on tonight's schedule for determination later in the meeting.

LA09/2019/0475/O Phase 1 housing Development at lands opposite 2 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Tobermore Concrete

Agreed that application be deferred for six weeks to consider additional information.

LA09/2019/0539/O Site for dwelling and garage 35m S of 98 Desertmartin Road, Magherafelt for Mr John Tohill

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented report on planning applications LA09/2019/0539/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak had been requested and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy advised the applicant has a farm holding of 25 acres and DARD had confirmed that it was a full working one established in excess of 6 years, which the case officer previously confirmed raising no concerns re integration or build up. He said that the applicant was an active farmer who put a lot man-hours into his work and this fitted into the CTY10 Policy.

Mr Cassidy advised that the applicant maintained his land in good environmental condition which included cutting of hedges and slurry spreading, with invoices being submitted for the last 6 years for work carried out. The golf course which he owns, and runs is kept in excellent condition and could be considered something which he maintains. He said that the site meets the infill policy as there was a single dwelling constructed and a new house under construction which was approved in 2017, giving frontage onto the road. This application sits in the middle of 3 houses and garage. He concluded by saying that this site meets the criteria for infill purposes in that it had a substantial built up frontage and should be recommended for approval.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8 pm and returned at 8.04 pm.

The Planning Manager said that he wasn't convinced that this was an acceptable farm case, however it was reasonable to consider other policy considerations, in looking at the road, consideration needed to be given as to what was the road frontage and whether there was an infill opportunity, he asked what was the major and minor road.

Councillor Clarke said that this was on the main road from Magherafelt to Desertmartin and the road to the left was the Mullaghboy Hill Road which was a minor road.

Councillor Brown said that he would contest that Mullaghboy Hill Road was a minor road. He referred to the 2nd site in question and said as the application required road frontage on Desertmartin Road but couldn't get any frontage on the bend at Mullaghboy Hill Road, he doesn't see the road frontage being a question.

The Planning Manager said that the frontage was the area between the 2 sites rather than the access point and it was quite clear it does seem to have a bit of frontage onto Desertmartin Road. He said that you could sit down and quite reasonably refuse the application as it did not share the common road frontage.

The Head of Development Management advised that he recently visited the site and the front of the house had no part as the frontage was set back and felt the application was weak and didn't fit into policy.

The Planning Manager said that it may be in members best interest to take the Head of Development Management's advice as it was clear that it did not meet policy and it was important to follow policy.

Councillor Bell said that by looking at the red line on the overhead presentation the boundary was at the house and suggested there was going to be frontage on Roshure Road and Desertmartin Road at some stage. He said that by listening to all comments

tonight and referring to No. 98 and application LA09/2017/1796/F asked how much of a difference would a dwelling being located there have on the rural character. The Planning Manager said that it was up to members to decide.

Councillor McKinney said that by looking at the overhead presentation he had no hesitation agreeing to the officer's recommendation as there was no frontage on Roshure Road and Mullaghboy Hill Road and evident that a clean-up has been done. He enquired how accurate the overhead map was.

The Head of Development Management said that for members clarity it may be worthwhile having a site visit to see the layout for themselves.

The Planning Manager agreed that as there seemed to be a bit of disquiet, it would be better if a visual assessment was made on site.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/0539/O be deferred for a site visit.

LA09/2019/1045/O Dwelling & domestic garage/store at 130m NW of 27 Tirnaskea Road, Pomeroy for Mr Mick Mallon

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2019/1069/F Dwelling and domestic garage on a gap/infill site approx. 100m NW of 88 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Mr Ciaran Lynch

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1069/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1069/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2019/1090/F Isolation shed for animals and storage machinery at approx. 165m NW of 81 Kinturk Road, Lower Mullan, Cookstown for Mr Eamonn Maynes

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented report on planning application LA09/2019/1090/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request in speak in support of the application had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy stated that this application was a delicate one as he was dealing with the trustees of a will with lands and farm sitting in probate and said that due to the sensitive nature of this, it takes time to gain the agreement of all parties. He advised that one son wished to take over the farm but needed complete agreement from all trustees and

hopefully within the proposed 14 days extended timeframe this may be forthcoming and successfully sorted.

The Planning Manager stated that after hearing a list of refusals being read out by Ms McCullagh (SPO) advised that it was clear that the issue was a probate and issues between family members. He said that members needed to be careful in their consideration and suggested that this application be refused and if the family wished they could reapply at a later date when all was sorted.

The Council Solicitor advised members that a probate was a red herring and not a material consideration for this committee. The onus was on the applicant to submit sufficient information and evidence to support the case they are making for planning application to be granted.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1090/F be refused.

**LA09/2019/1148/O Dwelling and garage 140m SSW of 44 Drumearn Road,
Cookstown for Thomas David James Harkness**

Councillor Glasgow withdrew to the public gallery.

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented report on planning applications LA09/2019/1148/O advising that they were recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1148/O be refused.

Councillor McKinney said that in his opinion this was another issue relating to the 10-year rule and welcomed the new policy being introduced.

Councillor Glasgow returned to the meeting.

**LA09/2019/1245/O Gap site for dwelling and garage at junction of Craigs Road &
Killycurragh Road, Orritor, Cookstown for Mr Wesley Carson**

Councillor Glasgow declared and interest in the application LA09/2019/1245/O.

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1245/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McKinney

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1245/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1402/O Site for a dwelling & domestic garage at approx. 50m NE of 45
Moneyneany Road, Draperstown for Mr Michael McWilliams**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented report on planning applications LA09/2019/1402/O advising that they were recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised that a request to speak had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy advised that the applicant was seeking permission to build a dwelling on the farm. The family had farmed on the land for a very long time and were previously involved in pig breeding until the poor health of the owner forced them to stop.

He said that although Mr McShane (the Licensor & applicant) had not an active business ID Number, receipts presented provided evidence that there was ongoing maintenance taking place on the land for the last number of years. He said that evidence was also provided to show documentation that included a Licence Agreement between Mr McWilliams (Licensee) and the applicant dating back to 29 March 2015.

Mr Cassidy stated that there was a copy of the conacre agreement between the two parties covering the period from 29 March 2015 to 28 March 2022 and the terms of the agreement allows for Mr McShane the use of the lands to take one cut of hay/silage per year and have full responsibility for all maintenance including hedgerows.

In concluding Mr Cassidy advised that Mr McShane has proved activity on the farm and asked members consider the application for approval.

Councillor S McPeake said that he had to read the report a few times to see how this application was recommended for refusal. He said that one was approved earlier on something similar and whilst he sat and listened, he did agree there could be a grey area which would be somewhat awkward for the case officer to distinguish relating to issues around single farm payment and business ID no.

He stated that there was evidence of expenditure and on that basis, he felt that this application should be approved and couldn't grasp why it was being recommended for refusal.

Councillor Quinn left the meeting at 8.31 pm and returned at 8.32 pm.

The Planning Manager said that someone can put cattle on their conacre and actively use the land and this is not seen as much different from harvesting and not directly linked to farm payment. He said that there was no evidence that the land was actually used.

Councillor McKinney agreed that this was quite complicated. He said if the landowner leased the land to the Licensor, then it was up to him to keep it in good shape and not the landowner.

In response to the Planning Manager's query, Ms McCullagh (SPO) advised that evidence of expenditure was provided for cutting hedges, slurry spreading and grass topping.

Councillor S McPeake said that evidence of expenditure for grass topping was most likely for the previous year (pre 2013).

The Council Solicitor said that it would be important to consider the relevant planning Policy consideration and that the term “active farming” would be a DAERA test. She referred the Committee to the wording in the CTY10 Policy test and the relevant paragraphs of the Justification & Amplification of CTY10. The Committee needed to assess the information provided on the planning policy test.

Councillor McKinney said that the application doesn’t meet the Policy and if anyone wished to find out who owned the land, they should write to DAERA.

The Planning Manager said that many years ago when Planning NI done a consultation on strategic policy in the countryside, his department wrote back advising that the policy was unclear on active farming etc. He said that the review left everyone in the dark and his team had to work their way through things to find a solution that worked.

He said that with this application he wouldn’t be happy to support it and although the land is kept in good condition, it may be seen as double counting.

Councillor S McPeake advised that from 2015 to 2020 was clear cut but the issue is pre 2015 and enquired if items of expenditure could be taken into consideration up to 2015.

The Planning Manager stated that a definition of a business is a transaction, service or product to somebody and making money from it and this was a business transaction. He said that he couldn’t see any information to suggest that prior to 2015 that it was used as an active farm business and found it strange that no evidence can be provided to show this.

Councillor S McPeake enquired why an invoice can’t be classed as proof.

The Planning Manager stated that this was a two-way thing.

Councillor Clarke advised that there were invoices submitted for a number of years for hedge cutting.

The Planning Manager said that there was evidence to show agricultural activity and that officers try and do their best to adhere to good planning decisions. What the policy states is that the agricultural land must be in activity good environmental condition and it proves that payment was being made to someone to keep the land up to standard, but it doesn’t prove that the business was active and established. There was no DARD farm business ID because it is someone else’s business number and only shown as a transaction farming.

Mr Cassidy said that further evidence wasn’t sought by the Planners and all relevant documentation was sitting on his desk and felt that a deferral of the application would be the best solution.

Councillor S McPeake enquired if an affidavit from a Solicitor would be suffice.

The Planning Manager said that there was a need to be very careful seeking an affidavit from a Solicitor.

Councillor S McPeake said that this was a very grey area which a Solicitor could possibly stand over and provide an affidavit to be taken as read.

The Council Solicitor said that she remembered looking at the example before when previously raised by Councillor S McPeake but remained not overly convinced. She said that the Affidavit(s)/Witness Statement(s) would be better coming from applicant and those with first hand knowledge along with any supporting documentary evidence provided as this would carry more weight. She said that she wouldn't recommend an affidavit as suggested by Councillor S McPeake as a possible solution for this or other cases.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Clark and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2019/1402/O be deferred for one month for further information.

Matters for Information

P030/20 Minutes of Special Planning Committee held on 30 January 2020

Members noted minutes of Special Planning Committee held on 30 January 2020

P031/20 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 February 2020

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 February 2020.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items P032/20 to P038/20.

Matters for Decision

P032/20 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

P033/20 Confidential Minutes of Special Planning Committee (Local Development Plan) held on 30 January 2020

P034/20 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 4 February 2020

P035/20 Receive Report on LDP – Draft Plan Strategy

P036/20 Enforcement Live Case List

P037/20 Enforcement Cases Opened

P038/20 Enforcement Cases Closed

P039/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 9.20 pm

Chair _____

Date _____



ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 3rd Mar 2020

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

| ITEM | INFORMATION RECEIVED | ACTION REQUIRED |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 3 | Correspondence received from Planning Appeals Commission setting date for Hearing in respect of Upperlands applications (H/2009/0264/O, H/209/0270/F & H/2009/0271/LB) | Members to note. |
| 4.2 | Letter received Arlene Foster MLA | Members to note. |
| 11 | Venue in Clogher not available for LDP exhibition. Therefore, list of exhibition locations updated to include Fivemiletown instead of Clogher. | Members to note. |

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Buchanan, Colvin, Doris, Gildernew, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Head of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR053/20 Apologies

Councillors Ashton, Elattar, Forde and Quinn, Chief Executive and Director of Finance.

PR054/20 Declaration of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR055/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy referred to previous discussions and decision taken to remove wall at Drumcoo as it had become a magnet for anti social behaviour. The Chair advised that the whole wall was erected by Council some 30 years ago but that it has since come to light that a section of the wall belongs to a third party, he stated that he has asked officers to engage with the third party to try to come to a resolution and that a report would be brought back to Committee on the matter.

Matters for Decision

PR056/20 Capital Discretionary Grant Budget

The Director of Business and Communities presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a transfer of budget (£300,000) from reserves to the capital funding for Discretionary Capital projects across Mid Ulster.

In response to question from the Chair, the Director of Business and Communities advised that some of the groups/projects are now in a position to draw down funding.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the transfer of £300,000 from reserves to Capital Discretionary Grant for the period 2018-2019, 2019-2020.

PR057/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Consultation Outcome

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which provided detail on the outcome of the public consultation on the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024 for the Committee's reconsideration following discussion at and decision taken by Council at its February meeting.

The officer stated that a number of issues had been raised at Council, principal among them being that the recommendation relating to the adoption of the plan with amendments and a further action relating to a separate consideration of issues raised by the 'PUL community' in the outworking of the council's Good Relations programme, was not clear.

The Head of Marketing and Communications sought clarification from the Committee, stating it was understood that the Committee's intention was to agree changes to the Corporate Plan based on the outcome of consultation and that this recommendation was not subject on any further discussion on issues raised by the 'PUL community'.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that was how he had interpreted the discussion at February Committee.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the final Corporate Plan 2020-2024 following the consultation exercise, subject to recommendations on the vision, values, themes, priorities, the plan narrative being amended to reflect issues raised and the corporate commitments being retained with some minor amendments to wording.

PR058/20 Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to reflect changes in the Senior Staff Structure

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which sought approval to make changes to the Scheme of Delegation resulting from amendments to the staff structure.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers resulting from amendments to the staff structure in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report.

PR059/20 Lease of lands at Pomeroy forest from DAERA/Forest Service – Update

The Council Solicitor presented previously circulated report which provided update on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs/Forest Service Northern Ireland's legal arrangement with the Council in relation to lands at Pomeroy Forest and to seek approval to the amended terms.

In response to question from Councillor McLean in relation to the increased rental value the Council Solicitor advised that the increase is in keeping with the valuation and that LPS have been engaged throughout the process.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note and agree the revised terms of the 20 year lease in relation to lands at Pomeroy Forest including those in section 3.3 of report and Appendix A of report, between Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs/Forest Service Northern Ireland and Mid Ulster District Council.

PR060/20 Consideration of Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2020-2022

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the proposed improvement objectives for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as set in compliance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and timelines for public consultation exercise.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the four improvement objectives for 2020-21 to 2021-22 as set out at 2.5 of report and Appendix A of report and to commence consultation on same along with associated timeline as set out at 3.5 of report.

**PR061/20 Report of Recommendations from Working Group:
Representation on Outside Bodies**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the final Recommendations Report emanating from the activity of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies together with the report of its meeting held on 6 February 2020.

Councillor S McPeake stated that this had been a complex piece of work and it was good that it had reached a conclusion. Councillor McPeake referred to the report of the Outside Working Group meeting held on 6 February 2020 which was attached at Appendix A to the report and referenced his comment in relation to the filling of positions on Outside Bodies at AGMs and In Term, the Councillor advised that he had stated that ICBAN constitution should be cross community *not* inclusive of all parties as detailed in report and asked that this comment be corrected.

Councillor S McPeake stated that a lot of good work had been done by the working group and that there was a further job of work to do in relation to civic recognition and the convening of a working group to look at the existing policy. Councillor McPeake stated that this working group should be set up as soon as possible and also felt that the DEA meetings will be useful. Councillor McPeake also referred to the establishment of an Arts Facilities Forum and asked that this be brought forward as soon as possible.

Councillor McKinney expressed some disappointment that it will take three years for the recommendations to come into play.

Councillor Colvin referred to the convening of a working group to consider civic recognition and stated that it was important for these awards to have some value to the people receiving them.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed that introduction of DEA meetings.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the report of the Working Group on Council Representation on Outside Bodies held on Thursday 6 February 2020 as set out at Appendix A of report, subject to the above amendment, and the Report of Recommendations from the Working Group as set out at Appendix B of report.

PR062/20 Response to NILGA Consultation: Council Reform to Date

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered a draft response to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on Council Reform to Date – Driving What's to Come.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft response to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on Council Reform to Date – Driving What’s to Come as set out at Appendix B of report.

PR063/20 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2020-2021

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which considered the 2020-2021 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period June 2020 to June 2021.

PR064/20 Member Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR065/20 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2020

Members noted Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February 2020.

PR066/20 Local Government Staff Commission: 2020/21 Contribution

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on correspondence received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) on annual contributions payable for 2020-21.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR067/20 to PR075/20.

Matters for Decision

PR067/20 Staffing Matters for Decision

PR068/20 Replacement of the Clocking Technology within Mid Ulster District Council Facilities

- PR069/20 Contract for the Collection and Processing of Mixed Dry
Recyclates (Blue Bin Contract)
PR070/20 Land Acquisitions and Disposals

Matters for Information

- PR071/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee
held on Thursday 6 February 2020
PR072/20 Staff Engagement Survey Results
PR073/20 Prudential Code for Capital Finance Indicators and
Authorised and Operational Borrowing Limits
PR074/20 Financial Report for 10 months ended 31 January 2020
PR075/20 Contracts and DAC

PR076/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.24 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor Buchanan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Burton, Cuthbertson, Glasgow,
Graham, N McAleer, S McAleer, B McGuigan,
S McGuigan, McNamee, Milne, O'Neill, Totten, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E063/20 Apologies

Councillor McFlynn.

E064/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in Agenda Item 27 – Tender report for Grass Cutting Services.

E065/20 Chair's Business

Councillor Burton asked that Council write to the Department in relation to ongoing anti social behaviour at White Lough outside Aughnacloy, the Councillor stated that bins had been burned and there was evidence of human excrement at the site. The Councillor referred to fish being taken from the Lough and questioned whether it was worthwhile restocking the Lough as this is notified beforehand giving those who want to come adequate notice of when there will be fish, the Councillor added that the fish were being taken with a net meaning that stocks got depleted quickly. The Councillor stated she did not want the site and the fishing attraction to be ruined for everyone but felt that the matter needed to be raised with the Department. The Councillor added that local people have spoken with the Department in relation to their concerns but were advised that the Department did not have the resources. Councillor Burton stated that it wasn't right that Council staff have to clean up the site and that the Department should be taking ownership of the Lough. The Councillor stated that the Police have been notified of the anti social behaviour in the past which has been ongoing for a couple of years.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that this appeared to be an ongoing issue and that Council involvement would be through the Parks Department. The Director advised that he would notify Officers of the concerns raised but that there were also linkages to PCSP and that the matter may require a multi agency approach.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that a multi agency would be required and that the concerns should also be brought to the PCSP in order to keep a focus on the area.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that he would have the issues referred, though members may wish to raise them again at the Development Committee on Thursday night.

Councillor Burton stated that bins at the Lough had been burned in the past which she felt fell within the remit of the Environment Committee.

With the agreement of the Chair, the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure referred to Coronavirus and stated that the Government had published its action plan last Tuesday 3rd March . The Director stated that the response was still in the 'Contain' phase with 16 cases being confirmed in Northern Ireland as of tonight. The Director stated there was some recent referencing of incidents in Mid Ulster which involved a football team in Coagh and school in Dungannon.

Councillor Wilson referred to incident involving Coagh Utd and stated that the football team followed the guidelines and did what they were asked to do. The Councillor stated that there were a lot of rumours but that the people of Coagh were not to blame for the incident.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that he had received a complaint from a person who been to the gym at Maghera Leisure Centre who stated that whilst there is sanitising gel at the reception of the Centre there was nothing to cleanse hands for those using the equipment in the gym.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that Council are in process of sourcing additional cleaning products including sanitising hand gels which are difficult to get at the moment. The Director stated that Council were following Public Health Agency advice and were taking practical steps to encourage everyone to follow the advice and guidance provided.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to report which indicated that the first person in Northern Ireland to be diagnosed with Coronavirus was from Bellaghy. The Councillor also referred to some Good Relations events which had been cancelled this week and asked if any other Council events would be cancelled.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that Council were following Government advice which was still in the 'Contain' phase and that Council are holding to this position until further expert advice and guidance is received. The Director stated that the events cancelled this week were organised by voluntary/community groups who can take and act on their own advice.

Councillor Milne stated that because of the rumours circulating regarding a person from Bellaghy being diagnosed with Coronavirus he had checked with the PHA who could not identify anyone from that area being infected. The Councillor stated that the report seemed to have originated from a website and there was no evidence to suggest it was correct. Councillor Milne further stated that the report had since been amended indicating that there was no confirmed case in Bellaghy.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated it was important not to get into a situation of blame and counter blame.

Councillor McNamee stated that a number of St Patrick's Day parades had been cancelled and asked if the parade in Dungannon was still taking place.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that although the St Patrick's Day parade in Dungannon comes onto council property the event itself is organised by the community and that, so far, Council has not been informed that the parade has been cancelled.

Councillor Milne asked if plans were being put in place for staff to work from home.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that all services were reviewing their operational delivery plans in order to maintain business continuity. The Director stated that it was hoped these plans would not be required to be actioned but would be in place should they be needed.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure referred to correspondence received from Sperrin Harriers which stated that they have held an annual event for 19 years but due to costs associated with road closure legislation they are unable to go ahead with this year's event. The Director stated that the group were requesting that Council write to the Department asking for a review of the legislation.

Councillor S McGuigan stated he was also aware of a group who were unable to hold an event this year due to the costs associated with road closure legislation.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting a review of the road closure legislation.

Councillor McNamee stated that it was his understanding that the administration costs requested by Council were not restrictive on groups.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that it was not so much the administration costs but rather the significant costs associated with traffic management for events.

Matters for Decision

E066/20 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council - Description Amendments – No Waiting on Market Square and Limited Waiting and Disabled Parking Bays on Castle Hill, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to Description Amendments – No Waiting on Market Square and Limited Waiting and Disabled Parking Bays on Castle Hill, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation Description Amendments – No Waiting on Market Square and Limited Waiting and Disabled Parking Bays on Castle Hill, Dungannon.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was aware of three accidents which have taken place at the end of Thomas Street/Market Square and that there seemed to be an issue of cars not stopping at the end of Thomas Street when entering Market Square. The Councillor stated that additional signage was required at this junction.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated officers would reflect with PSNI on whether they were aware of the accidents being referred to and go back to the design team in relation to the junction.

E067/20 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed No Waiting at Any Time – Market Square, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Market Square, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Market Square, Dungannon.

E068/20 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Limited Waiting – Thomas Street, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed Limited Waiting at Thomas Street, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed Limited Waiting at Thomas Street, Dungannon.

E069/20 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed Provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Coronation Park, Aughnacloy

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Coronation Park, Aughnacloy.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed provision of a Disabled Persons' Parking Bay at Coronation Park, Aughnacloy.

E070/20 Eco Schools Programme Support 2020/21

Members considered previously circulated report which sought approval to continue to provide financial support to the Eco Schools Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to continue to provide financial support to the Eco Schools Programme in Northern Ireland to the amount of £1,700 in 2020/21 as requested by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

E071/20 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report regarding the naming of new residential housing developments within Mid Ulster.

Site off Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Ballymacombs Road, Portglenone as Glencombe Wood.

E072/20 Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which outlined the Enforcement Procedural Documents developed to achieve compliance of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended).

Councillor Milne referred to the swimming pool in Greenvale Leisure Centre and that people were not using this pool because of the temperature of the water. The Councillor stated that he had been advised that to raise the temperature of the pool to 32c would cost thousands of pounds however people were currently being driven away and were going to a private facility because the water is too cold.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that this was a clear operational issue and that he would refer the matter to the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation tonight but that Members could raise the matter again at the Development Committee on Thursday night.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree to the adoption of the Procedural Document for the enforcement of Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended).

E073/20 Memorandum of Understanding between HSENI and District Councils on the Notification of Licensed Asbestos Removal

Members considered previously circulated report which outlined the Memorandum of Understanding between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and District Councils in Northern Ireland regarding the allocation of enforcement responsibility for all licensable asbestos removal work.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding and the consistent enforcement approach adopted by the Memorandum of Understanding between District Councils and HSENI in respect of the notification of licensed asbestos removal.

E074/20 Response to the Department of Education Consultation on Update to Nutritional Standards for School Food

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which outlined the response to the Department of Education's Consultation on the Update to Nutritional Standards for School Food. The Head of Environmental Health highlighted that the closing date of the consultation was 27 March, the day after the March Council meeting, and requested permission to submit the response in advance of the deadline.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to agree the content of the draft consultation response as set out at appendix 2 of report and forward response, in advance of the deadline, to the Department of Education in accordance with the completed consultation template.

Matters for Information

E075/20 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 February 2020

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 February 2020.

E076/20 Tullyvar Joint Committee Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the business of the Tullyvar Joint Committee.

E077/20 Coalisland Recycling Centre – Waste Compactors

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on recent operational changes at Coalisland Recycling Centre.

Councillor O'Neill thanked the officer for the report but stated that he had asked that the report include what the long term plans are for the site.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that the request for the long term plans for the site was made at the Council meeting after the paper before Members tonight had been submitted. The Director confirmed that there were no plans to close the site as it is well used however it was advised that Council leases the land on which the recycling centre sits. The Director stated that the site has moved from one owner to another recently and that the current owner has not responded to Council's correspondence. The Director stated that Council would ideally look for a 25 year lease of the site and that there is work Council would like to do at the recycling centre but would not want to move forward with this until lease terms have been finalised and agreed.

E078/20 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E079/20 Entertainment Licences

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E080/20 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

E081/20 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests. Where more than 51% of occupiers that

respond indicate that they are in favour of the erection of Dual Language Signage, nameplates will be erected as below –

- Coalisland Road, Dungannon
- Church View, Cookstown
- Millbank Cottages, Cookstown
- Scotchtown Lane, Coagh
- Lough Drive, Ballyronan
- Ardagh Road, Coagh
- Lough Way, Ballyronan
- Hawthorn Manor, Cookstown
- Killetra, Coagh
- Beechline, Dungannon

Where less than 51% of occupiers that responded indicate that they were not in favour of the erection of a Dual Language street nameplate, then the Dual Language nameplate will not be erected as below –

- Derrylattinee Road, Dungannon

E082/20 Dual Language Signage Survey – Drumullan Manor, Cookstown

Members noted previously circulated report which provided the result of a survey undertaken on all applicable residents in Drumullan Manor, Cookstown in response to a Dual Language Signage Nameplate request. As there were no respondents to the survey request Dual Language signage will not be erected at Drumullan Manor, Cookstown.

E083/20 Community Resuscitation Action Plan and Community of Lifesavers Programme

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the Community of Lifesavers Programme and provided an update on ongoing Community Resuscitation work.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to community group who has a defibrillator registered with NI Ambulance Service. The Councillor stated that the community group had recently received a phonecall requesting them to re register the defibrillator and asked if this was something officers were aware of or if it was a scam.

The Head of Environmental Health stated this was not something she was aware of but would check with NI Ambulance Service.

E084/20 Bus Shelter Updates

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the current bus shelter status following a recent bus shelter collaborative workshop.

Councillor McAleer referred to previous request for bus shelter in Ballygawley which is not included in status update at appendix 2 of report.

The Head of Technical Services stated that officers may be waiting on confirmation of numbers from Translink for this shelter. The officer advised that there was a meeting in relation to bus shelters this week and the status of this bus shelter could

be checked with a further update report being brought to the April Environment Committee.

Councillor O'Neill stated that he had met with the Technical Services Manager in relation to bus shelter at Annaghmore Road. The Councillor stated that this shelter was not included on the status update and asked that this be followed up.

Councillor Burton referred to request put forward to the Technical Services Manager in relation to bus shelter which is located at a dangerous position outside an engineering works and the need to move it to somewhere safer, possibly at a Council facility. The Councillor stated that this shelter is also not referenced in the status update.

Councillor B McGuigan thanked the officer team for putting in place a process and that Members are now able to keep track of requests more easily.

In response to question from Councillor Glasgow the Head of Technical Services advised that the Education Authority are consulted with in relation to bus shelters.

Councillor Glasgow referred to case in which the Education Authority have recently changed a bus route and that the existing bus shelter is no longer in the right place and requires to be moved. The Councillor stated that there was a need for the Education Authority to notify Council when bus routes are going to be changed.

Councillor Burton stated that the working group was a good opportunity to bring statutory agencies together to discuss and move forward bus shelter requests.

E085/20 Mid Ulster Fairtrade

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Mid Ulster Fairtrade Campaign.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E086/20 to E098/20

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---------|---|
| E086/20 | Request for Temporary Alternative Use of Off Street Car Parks |
| E087/20 | Tender for collection and recycling of plasterboard |
| E088/20 | Joint Tender for Appointment of Electricity Supplier |
| E089/20 | Tender report for Grass Cutting Services |
| E090/20 | Tender report for Grass Sports Pitch Maintenance Services |
| E091/20 | Public Toilet Provision |

- E092/20 Application for the Grant of a New Amusement Permit at 12 Union Road, Magherafelt
- E093/20 Application for Temporary Street Trading Licence

Matters for Information

- E094/20 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 February 2020
- E095/20 Fleet Operator Licence Renewal
- E096/20 Memorial Safety Inspection Programme
- E097/20 Capital Projects Update
- E098/20 Community Events on Council Land – Community Support Programme

E099/20 Best Wishes

The Chair, Councillor Buchanan stated that this was the Director of Environment and Property's last meeting at the Environment Committee as he was retiring on 6 April. The Chair stated that the Director was a professional officer with a wealth of knowledge and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Councillor B McGuigan thanked the Director of Environment and Property for all his work not only in Mid Ulster Council but also the legacy Magherafelt District Council. The Councillor stated that the Director had always been extremely helpful and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Councillor Wilson thanked the Director of Environment and Property for all his courtesy and that Members always got a straight answer from the officer.

Councillor McAleer thanked the Director of Environment and Property for all his help including with Tullyvar and wished him all the best in his retirement.

The Director of Environment and Property thanked Members for their sentiments and said he was looking forward to his retirement. The Director stated that he had come to the legacy Magherafelt District Council in 2008 and wished Councillors all the best for the future both individually and in their parties. The Director also highlighted that this was the last meeting of the Environment Committee that the Head of Environmental Health would be attending as the Environmental Health function would be moving under the directorate of the Development Committee going forward.

Councillor Milne stated that the Director of Environment and Property was a gentleman who was always available to support Councillors.

The Chair, Councillor Buchanan thanked the Head of Environmental Health for all her hard work over the years.

E100/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.34 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Thursday 12 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Members Present | Councillor Monteith (V Chair) Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Milne and Molloy |
| Officers in Attendance | Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer |
| Others in Attendance | Agenda Item 4 – Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon) |

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D045/20 Apologies

Councillor Kearney, McNamee and Wilson

D046/20 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

D047/20 Chair's Business

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith said it would be absurd not to mention Corona virus and the issues effecting both the organisation and the population. He highlighted two issues in relation to development

- (i) The announcement by the Chancellor regarding the 100% business rates reduction for small shops in England that is 100% rates relief an increase in the 50% they had already been granted and stated it was something Council needed to raise with the Department of Finance in relation; and
- (ii) The announcement of the hardship fund to be distributed by Local Government in England and whether if it came to the North would it be issues by Stormont or local Councils.

Councillor Ashton stated she would not be able to vote due to her current position but asked as the aforementioned was a devolved matter would it be more apt to be dealt with by Policy and Resources.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that the Development Committee continually make representation on behalf of small businesses.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the situation was moving quickly and concurred with the Vice Chair's comments.

Councillor Molloy there is a whole remit of what comes out of this where support will lie we need to know there are conversations to be had for example with regard to childcare.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that:

- (i) Make representation or contact with the Department of Finance with regard to plans for assistance for retailers similar to that granted by the Chancellor in England (100% business rate reduction for small shops).
- (ii) Seek clarity from the Executive Office as to whether there will be a hardship fund similar to that announced for Local Government in England and who will administer same.

Councillor Kerr spoke of funding issues facing local youth clubs for example Ogras, and highlighted the service they provide to young people offering alternative activities and assistance with mental health issues. He requested that Council endeavour to support local youth clubs in relation to funding difficulties.

Councillor Doris said she worked closely with Ogras through Neighbourhood Renewal and advised that the Minister for Department for Communities was reviewing the situation.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated the matter was the same for Dungannon Youth Club who again were experiencing funding difficulties as one branch of funding was ceasing. He highlighted that there was temporary funding to June 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to meet with local youth clubs such as Ogras and Dungannon Youth Club who are being impacted by forthcoming funding cuts.

Councillor Burton stated she had raised the matter of anti social behaviour at White Lough at the Environment Committee and would do so again as it falls within the remit for Parks. She advised that the Department of Fisheries advertise when the loughs are being stocked and unfortunately it was attracting antisocial behaviour including poaching, drinking and the area being used as a public toilet. Councillor Burton

proposed that Council write to the Department and request that they take cognizance of the negative effects of advertising. Councillor Burton advised that the police had been notified as bins had been burnt and animals in a nearby field injured as rubbish was being thrown over the hedge.

In response the Head of Parks stated that White Lough was part of the Fisheries Estate which Council did not have a remit for although he was aware of the ongoing problems. He stated that Council was currently in consultation with DEARA in order to convene a more robust service level agreement and Council had been asked if there would be an interest in having White Lough included. He highlighted that the Lough is advertised as part of Council's fishing experience and it was likely that it would be included in the draft service level agreement which would be presented to committee in line with similar working arrangements currently operational at other locations in the district, such as Brantry Lough.

In response to Councillor Burton's query regarding advertising fish stocking the Head of Parks advised it was DEARA's own internal policy how they do this but advised that the issue could be flagged up to them.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to DEARA expressing concern regarding ongoing antisocial behaviour at White Lough Aughnacloy. Letter to also express concern regarding the advertising of fish stocking which is attracting poachers.

Councillor Milne in relation to Corona Virus referred to the shortage of hand sanitizer and asked if Council could supply Members with same given their public role in the community.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue Members with hand sanitizer.

Councillor Doris sought an update from Officers regarding the Corona Virus crisis.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the focus was on staff and customer safety and assured that all guidance issued by the Public Health Agency was being adhered to and that the senior management team were meeting on a daily basis carefully managing communication to ensure it was clear and concise. He stressed the need for consistency and transparency regarding national guidance.

Councillor Kerr expressed disappointment at the lack of cross co-operation between the 26 county government and the 6 county government stressing that Corona virus would not stop at the border and was emphatic that the lack of co-operation was not acceptable.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith spoke of the contradiction in senior medical advice.

Councillor Elattar asked what measures were being put in place for staff if they had to take time off highlighting how people would struggle financially. She also highlighted the panic buying, food shortages and increased reliance on food banks asking what Council could do to support.

The Director of Business and Communities said that Council is continually appraising the situation, understood that staff would be affected due to the virus and was looking at business continuity plans defining essential and non-essential services as well as supporting staff. He also advised that Local Government Officials had been invited to a briefing at Stormont this evening to ensure consistency of approach and there was a further meeting on Friday 13th March. In relation to supporting food banks the Director stated whilst the Community section of Council had an open door they could only work within their limitations.

Councillor Molloy left the meeting at 7.21 pm

Councillor Ashton stated that the situation was fluid, meetings were ongoing, decisions were based on scientific evidence and that there would be a North South Ministerial meeting on Saturday 14 March. She emphasised the need to keep calm heads and focus on the advice from the Chief Medical Officer. She also advised that there had been no prior indication of the actions of the Southern Government.

Councillor Cuddy stated he was disappointed in the different approaches as the virus would not stop at the border and hoped future working would improve. He also asked what was happening with regard to St Patrick's Day festivities highlighting that there was events planned for Dunganon.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Gaelic Forum.

The Vice chair Councillor Monteith advised that the St Patrick's Day Parade in Dungannon had been cancelled.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that there was a series of events planned across towns, theatres and visitor attractions in the coming days and Council was being consistent with advice from the Chief Medical Officer. He advised that no other Councils had cancelled events and thus it was business as usual until advised otherwise. He further advised that Council was encouraging the use of hand sanitizer.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 7.27 pm and Councillor Molloy returned

The Vice Chair advised that the GAA was on lock down with all activity prohibited until 28 March 2020.

Councillor Cuddy stated that traders needed to understand what is happening as there would be knock on economic effects.

Councillor Milne expressed disappointment that Councillors and staff were sitting so close which was against current advice giving that people had travelled from all parts of the district. He stated that small things could save lives and people with underlying conditions are being sacrificed, he stressed that people needed to be kept at safe distances.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated there would be implications going forward for meetings as an elected body decisions would need to be made. He stated a conversation was required as decisions would need to be ratified.

Councillor Ashton stated it may be appropriate for the senior management team to meet with party leaders to discuss emergency planning.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that SMT meet with Party Leaders with regard to emergency planning for ongoing coronavirus crisis.

Councillor Milne said that British Members of Parliament were not meeting for more than 15 minutes, conversations were to be no more than five minutes yet here the meeting was sitting tonight for a number of hours. He emphasised that it was emergency times.

Councillor Cuddy stated that Council needed to display leadership and advised a Cobra Committee would be meeting.

Councillor Burton concurred with previous comments of Councillor Elattar and Ashton and stated that many in the community needed support speaking of one 80 year old she knew of who relied on community transport to get to the shops. She recalled the 'big freeze' a number of years ago and stated that the community and Council had supported each other.

The Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that bigger supermarkets should have issued control.

Councillor Molloy spoke of people buying infant milk and baby food but there was many who could not afford to bulk buy and stated it would be prudent to engage with the Department of Health to ascertain how people can access such essentials. He stressed that he was aware Council was taking guidance from the Chief Medical Officer but stated that advice should be followed on medical grounds not economic grounds.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith concurred highlighting the current 'chess board' approach taken by cinemas.

Councillor Kerr highlighted cases of 'vulture capitalism' highlighting extortionate prices for face masks shared on social media.

Councillor Corry highlighted the plight of parents with children with acute special needs unable to get hand sanitizer.

In response to the Vice Chair's request that quota measures should be introduced by Stormont the Director of Business and Communities stated that he would raise the matter at the briefing at Stormont.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Chief Executive requests that Stormont enforce a quota system in shops to prevent bulk buying leading to shortages of essential goods.

D048/20 Deputation – Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon)

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith welcomed Teresa Miles representative of Belfast Central Mission (Armagh & Dungannon) to the meeting.

Ms Miles spoke of the organisations making reference to the undernoted:

- BCM is a charitable organisation that was founded in 1889 as a result of poor living conditions in the city of Belfast. Throughout the years it has grown from strength to strength and expanded their services, BCM has been running as a charity for almost 130 years and been based in Dungannon for almost 15 years.
- The aim remains the same 'to support those who need it most in Northern Ireland', supporting young people for up to 2 years. The organisation is people focused treating people with Respect and integrity.
- BCM enjoys a good working relationship with other community organisations and also makes referrals to the NIHE, Social services, health visitors.
- BCM (A&D) currently offers support to 92 young people aged between 16-25 in the Dungannon and Armagh area and have recently expanded services to the Magherafelt area. Housing support includes help with homelessness, budgeting, access to education & employment, aspects of health including physical & emotional and practical support. Practical support for example decorating, shopping, form filling and cleaning.
- BCM(A&D) offers a floating support service to 120 people aged 55+ and offers similar support to that of the younger people, they cover Dungannon, Armagh, Lurgan, Portadown and now extended to Newry;
- BCM (A&D) offer parent support services funded by the H&SCT and at present referrals can only be received through the HUB, this is currently limited to 20 families at one time. It was highlighted that there was a continuing rise in demand for this service.
- Annual Christmas toy appeal;
- Ongoing issues include lack of suitable accommodation, difficulties with private landlords although the NIHE has recently allocated funding to help meet private landlord deposit.
- Universal Credit waiting times presents difficulties sometimes leads to rough sleeping.
- Service users have complex needs including mental health and drug abuse;

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith thanked Ms Miles for the presentation.

Councillor Doris commended the work of BCM in the district and concurred with the issues in relation to Universal Credit.

Ms Miles advised that they were constantly supporting people with job support advising that BCM had delivered a presentation to staff in Dungannon Job Centre but as the organisation was Methodist Church based Cookstown Job Centre had refused to permit this. Ms Miles stated BCM (A&D) were now based in Western House, Coalisland an area where they had a lot of service users but people were often reluctant to admit they needed support.

Councillor Molloy commended the work of BCM (A&D) stating that he had been unaware of the history of the organisation. He also said it was shameful the situation society was in.

Ms Miles said they worked with many organisations such as St Vincent de Paul and the Vineyard Church endeavouring to meet people at the point of their need.

In response to Councillor Kerr's question Ms Miles stated that in relation to mental health issues they work with and refer cases onto the Niamh Louise Foundation and PIPS. She further advised that they also offered support with GP appointments as many young people did not have the confidence to attend alone. Ms Miles also spoke of many service users suffering isolation and how BCM offered a holistic approach to people's complex needs.

In response to Councillor Cuddy Ms Miles advised that BCM (A&D) have 18 people engaged across three teams.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he was aware of the work in the Dungannon area and many families who had been helped. He also spoke of the Council's Anti Poverty Strategy and stated that Council should have a strong link with the group.

Ms Miles left the meeting at 7.50pm

In response to the Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith's query the Head of Community Services stated that the Anti Poverty Strategy was being presented to the Senior Management Team following which it would be presented to committee. She further advised that every six months Council engaged with Dungannon Together.

Matters for Decision

D049/20 Review of Mid Ulster District Council's Tourism Strategy

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to update and inform Council on actions as part of the review of the Tourism Strategy "Our Plan to Develop Tourism in Mid Ulster 2016-2021".

The Head of Tourism stated that the Tourist Board had requested that Council gather data in relation to the impact of corona virus as businesses were being hit hard highlighting that one tour operator had had 60 bookings cancelled. He added that it was important to generate business at home.

Councillor Cuddy stated he sat on the Tourism Forum, that there was a strong team but Council needed to challenge stats and Tourism NI needed to reflect this. He also commented on the difficult times ahead with the impact of corona virus.

Councillor Doris commended staff on their work to date.

Councillor Clarke concurred.

Councillor Corry stated that mapping archaeological sites was an excellent idea.

In response to comments the Head of Tourism stated that competing with Belfast had always been challenging and highlighted that a regional brand would be reflective of Tourism NI 'Embrace a Giant Spirit Brand' which had 23 key themes across the 11 Council areas three of which were in Mid Ulster, the Heaney Centre, Davagh Dark Skies and Sheep Dog Trials with Bake house experience in Bellaghy.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.00 pm

In response to Councillor Monteith's concerns regarding the erection of lights near the Dark Skies Project which may present a significant danger to the concept the Director of Business and Communities emphasised that Council's position had been made abundantly clear in relation to the matter.

Councillor Clarke reiterated Councillor Monteith's comments stating that the area sits on a ridge overlooking an ASSI. He also highlighted that at a recent public enquiry concern had been expressed regarding aviation requests for red lights flashing on turbines every second.

Councillor Kerr highlighted that the lights erected recently had been highlighted as 10% of the impact of what will happen if the mining goes ahead.

Councillor Monteith emphasised that Council's position should be reinstated to Central Planning regarding these matters.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Burton

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the actions and budgets outlined in the Mid Ulster Tourism Review and associated trade and consumer platforms 20-21 plan.

D050/20 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

- **Peace IV Local Action Plan – Re-engagement Successful Grant Projects**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the process to re-engage groups with previous Peace IV funding letters of offer and extend grant funded projects that have successfully completed.

- **PCSP Plan 2020 – 2021**

Members noted PCSP Plan 2020 – 2021.

In response to Councillor Kerr's comments regarding crime rates in towns the Head of Community Development stated that the statistics have to be reported as laid out in PCSP processes as it is an independent body

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith proposed that the East Timorese Group should be invited to make a presentation to Council. He highlighted that some were experiencing issues in relation to renewing passports and suggested Council facilitate Embassy Services for the East Timorese Government.

Councillor Cuddy concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council

- (i) invite the East Timorese Group to make a presentation to the committee; and
- (i) extend an invitation to the East Timorese Government to provide Embassy Services in the District.

In response to Councillor Kerr seeking an update in relation to Council's work with mental health groups and suggestion to invite them in the Head of Community Development advised that this work was progressed through Environmental Health.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation reminded Members that the remit for Environmental Health was moving to the Development Committee from April.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that it would be helpful for the committee to receive a presentation to update members in relation to ongoing work in regard to Mental Health.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that training would be organised to equip Members with decision making processes in relation to Environmental health.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Development Committee receive a presentation from Environmental Health to update committee on ongoing work in regard to Mental Health.

D051/20 Economic Development Report – For Decision

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below:

- **Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan 2020/21**

Councillor Doris spoke of events in the action plan in relation to Coalisland and stated that funding falls short in comparison to other areas and stated she would like to explore if more funding would be available noting the numbers attracted to Coalisland events. She highlighted that Halloween events in particular combat a lot of anti social behaviour and aside of the main event there is always a series of events and whilst she appreciates Dungannon is a main town Coalisland would have a higher attendance rate across events. Councillor Doris also spoke of the Newell Stores 10k event stating that Council also host events alongside this.

The Head of Economic Development stated that the budgets were finite and that already Coalisland summer event had been increased by £2k rising from £7k to £9k and Coalsiland's three events under this remit receive £26k whilst Maghera's two events receive £22k. Members were also reminded that Dungannon was a key signature large town thus received more due to status.

The Head of Tourism advised that in particular Halloween and Christmas events and location of same would be reviewed in the near future and there would be a meeting with Members to progress.

Councillor Kerr asked if wifi could be supplied in smaller towns/villages.

In response the Head of Economic Development stated that Council simply did not have the budget to supply this and if it was decided to do so the budget would have to be cut elsewhere unless an additional budget was provided.

Councillor Ashton stated that perhaps this could be raised at forthcoming meetings between Council and Stormont Ministers but from a Council funding perspective the rate had been struck and it was tight.

In response to Councillor Ashton's query regarding visitor numbers the Head of Economic Development stated they had not been incorporated into this report but had been presented in January 2020 through Tourism reports.

The Head of Tourism stated that from memory the Coalisland event had been attended by approximately 2000 people which was down on other years but highlighted that it had been particularly inclement weather whilst the Dungannon event had attracted between 3000 – 4000 people.

Councillor Doris welcomed the additional £2k but reiterated that for Halloween in particular there were many events leading up to the main event and welcomed further conversations.

Councillor Ashton requested clarification of numbers in attendance.

Councillor Cuddy stated there was five towns across the district and it was difficult to strike a balance. He stated that Members did not want to get into 'tit for tat' funding issues but instead needed to ensure the £142k is used to the optimum for all towns.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that there was five major urban areas which takes up the vast majority of funding but said there was an opportunity to review planning and perhaps fill gaps in smaller areas. He stated they could be asked if wifi would bring particular benefits and said it would be a worthwhile exercise to engage with traders and community groups across the villages and advise that although there was no funding at this point planning would be advantageous.

Councillor Ashton said this had been done through village plan process.

The Vice Chair Councillor Monteith stated village plan process had focused on one department remit but this should be a more holistic approach for the betterment of villages.

Councillor Ashton stated that Council perhaps should revisit the plans.

The Vice Chair stated that Council should facilitate a process.

Councillor Burton stated that recently Officers had met with villages for example LAG funding but this would be intended for wider village betterment of towns and villages, she also stated that she had been in contact with the Head of Economic Development regarding villages and highlighted that the Spruce Up Scheme was inundated with requests and there would be an overspend if all progressed.

The Director of Business and Communities said it was oversubscribed at present but generally there would be some 'drop out' which permits reserve projects to come on board.

Councillor Burton stated whilst some businesses were closing others were opening and it would be good to offer assistance and help those who were trying to help themselves.

Councillor Molloy stated that the Village Plans were maybe 3-4 year old thus underlying categories would need reviewed but asked if there was funding that larger villages could tap into.

Councillor Monteith stated there was documents and plans but Council should explore the opportunity to sit down with groups and review the documents. For example highlighting perhaps the cost of wifi and then endeavour to identify methods of funding.

The Director of Business and Communities stated there was a tier below Coalisland and Maghera of settlements of 5k population. He stated that the larger towns had larger budgets reflecting legacy rational of how funding was distributed. He stated there was engagement in areas such as Maghera and Moy and under community plan there may be space to update some others.

The Director reflected that there were 44 other villages for which funding had come from SWARD and LAG reminding Members that £3m had been distributed, with match funding and a good job had been carried out. He stated there was two sets of villages and it would be more prudent to take one tier at a time. He highlighted the difficulty of managing expectation saying that in the previous exercise monies had been available but going forward there was no European money for Rural Development and whilst Council could identify need there was no funding to bring to the table.

The Director concluded that parties are continually bringing the matter forward and urged members to lobby for funding as unless money could be raised aspirations could not be met.

Councillor Molloy stated the 'spade work' could be done.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve those projects and costs (highlighted in red) within the Regeneration Action Plan for 2020/21 on Appendix 1 of report. Projects/costs (highlighted in green) to be noted, having previously received Council approval.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to explore options for reviewing village plans in the district's largest villages (ie, those immediately below the 5 largest towns) that have grown significantly in recent years. Members noted the importance of having officer input from all Departments across Council to consider the wider strategic issues affecting these villages.

- **ATCM Membership Renewal 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Milne

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the renewal of membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for the calendar year, 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 at a cost of £545 (excluding Vat).

- **Consultation Response to the DAERA Innovation Strategy 2020-2025**

Councillor Clarke stated he had read the submission and highlighted that tourism is a very important part of the way forward and infrastructure played a major role as many attractions were in rural areas and this should be reflected in the response.

Councillor Corry concurred emphasising the inclusion of infrastructure.

The Head of Economic Development agreed to reflect these views.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 8.31 pm

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that Members comments in relation to infrastructure and tourism be incorporated in response and amendments resubmitted to DAERA.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to retrospectively approve Council's consultation response to the draft DAERA Innovation Strategy 2020-2025 attached at Appendix 4, which had to be submitted by 5 March 2020 before the consultation period ended. That Members comments in relation to infrastructure and tourism be incorporated in response and amendments resubmitted to DAERA.

Councillor Doris returned at 8.33 pm

- **Cookstown TEDx Event – Sponsorship Request**

Councillor Molloy stated the event showcases enterprise in the district.

Councillor Cuddy stated it was an important event.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he had no difficulty but any recommendation should be in principal subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council in principle, subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision, to approve "Gold Level" sponsorship of the Cookstown TEDx event in the Burnavon Theatre on 18 June 2020 at a cost of £2,000 (excl. Vat), subject to acknowledgement of Council's sponsorship as outlined in the request.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2020 – Partnership Proposal**

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated he had no difficulty but any recommendation should be in principal subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision.

Councillor Burton expressed concern about the category of the awards which was by public vote stating that the Mid Ulster Mail had not a large circulation in some areas of the district thus it was somewhat unfair.

The Head of Economic Development stated that the businesses across Mid Ulster could apply to any category and that the organisers had indicated that if Council were prepared to fund event in some way they would conduct an email campaign in the Clogher Valley area and would also promote at the Clogher Valley Show. She further emphasised that it was an application process which would then be assessed by a judging panel.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.40pm.

Councillor Ashton clarified that it was the categories that were decided by public vote that Cllr Burton was speaking of.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Monteith stated that clarification should be sought.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved That it be recommended to Council in principle, subject to clarification of other sponsors involved as per previous Council decision,

- (i) To seek clarity in relation to voting regarding the public vote categories and how this may disadvantage “public voting” for businesses in the Clogher Valley area given the newspapers are not in wide circulation in this area;
- (ii) to approve the sponsorship of the Mid Ulster Business Awards in November 2020 at the following level: Category Sponsorship £1,750 + Vat – SME Business of the Year
- (iii) that Council request JPI Media to host the Awards on Thursday 19 November 2020, during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (instead of 25 November 2019 as per their original proposal).

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 8.42 pm.

D052/20 Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.

Councillor Hughes on behalf of Councillor S McAleer raised the issue of Parkanaur Forest whereby community groups were concerned about the state of the pathways and whilst the Forestry Services had indicated they would address the issues nothing was being done and asked if a meeting could be arranged with local community groups.

Councillor Cuddy concurred.

In response the Head of Parks stated that trees had fallen down during storms and some paths had been blocked for maybe three years and whilst Council could flag up the issue it had no responsibility.

In response to Councillor Kerr highlighting proposals detailed at page 94 of the strategic plan in relation to Castlebay the Head of Parks stated the issue was raised regarding Brocagh and stated that there was some community trails and whilst some were listed the list was not complete. He advised there was a proposal for a network of trails in other areas of the Lough and thus picnic facilities could be incorporated as play would come through other strategies.

Councillor Kerr asked if contact had been made with 'Friends of the Canal.' The Head of Parks stated that Council had a maintenance responsibility and issues had been logged with Property Services but to date no direct contact had been made with the group.

Councillor Doris welcomed the report and welcomed the reprioritisation of projects.

Councillor Milne stated that there was ongoing problems with dog fouling and whilst there was signage and legislation it was not a deterrent and stated he would propose Officers have a conversation with Derry and Strabane regarding dog DNA analysis to perhaps find a better way of dealing with the problem.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that dog fouling was within the remit of Environmental Health which would report to the development committee moving forward.

Councillor Corry welcomed opportunities to develop Derrynoyd and Drumnaph.

Councillor Burton sought an update regarding Lumford Glen. In response the Head of Parks stated it was with the Forestry Service but Council would lobby and encourage them to prioritise the necessary works to reopen the trail at Lumfords Glen .

In response the Head of Parks stated that trees had fallen down during storms and some paths had been blocked for maybe three years and whilst Council could flag up the issue it had no responsibility.

Councillor Burton stated they promised often but she was seeking delivery.

The Head of Parks acknowledged there was disease in the forest and whilst it was brought to their attention it may be down the list of priorities.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that a meeting was scheduled with Forestry Service and that officers would flag up ongoing problems at Parkanaur Forest and Lumford Glen.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the:

- (i) Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan.
- (ii) Appointment of suitably qualified Integrated Consultancy and Supply teams (ICT and IST) to assist Council with a phased delivery of the programmed action plan.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that officers flag up to Forestry Service ongoing problems at Parkanaur Forest and Lumford Glen.

Matters for Information

D053/20 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a letter be forwarded to other Councils in Northern Ireland to highlight the work of the Boom Foundation and encourage that an invitation be extended to the group to raise awareness regarding Sarcoma

D054/20 Economic Development Report – For Information

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on matters related to Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 05.11.19, Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2019 Evaluation Report, NI Apprenticeship Week 2020.

D055/20 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2020.

Councillor Kerr highlighted ongoing vandalism to dual language signs with one being attacked on three occasions. He commended staff for their rapid response. He further advised that some constituents were complaining about townland signs being inaccurate.

D056/20 Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre 20th Anniversary

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on activities and promotion to acknowledge and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown (2000-2020).

D057/20 Corporate Events Programme 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided information on the 2020 Corporate Events Programme.

Councillor Molloy emphasised the need to ensure that 'quiet hours' as adopted in a notice of motion to Council are incorporated into events programmes.

The Head of Tourism advised that this was being addressed.

In response to Councillor Kerr's query the Head of Tourism advised that Council had to operate with limited resources but could consider a Sunday event for the Coalisland Christmas Lights switch on.

Councillor Doris stated that the date had been a suggestion of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.

Councillor Kerr highlighted Coalisland Connect highlighting that it had the largest representation of Traders.

Councillor Doris stated it was important to take on board all views.

It was noted that there was Coalisland Town Centre Forum Coalisland Traders Association and Coalisland Connect.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that the Head of Tourism and Dungannon Regeneration Manager meet-with Coalisland Town Centre Forum, Coalisland Traders Association and Coalisland Connect to agree a date for the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch on event.

Resolved That the Head of Tourism bring a report to the next Development Committee meeting to show the numbers attending Council's corporate events.

Councillor Cuddy stated that unfortunately if it rains these events become a 'damp squib' but stated that there has to be equality for events running on the same evening.

D058/20 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) Core Funding activities, marketing, tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

D059/20 VE Events 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on events which will be delivered directly or in partnership with other groups to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, 8th May 2020.

D059/20 Update Dungannon Leisure Centre

Members noted previously circulate report providing an update on the reopening of Dungannon Leisure Centre.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider item D060/20 to D066/20.

Matters for Decision

- D061/20 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Calibration of Indoor Cycle Bikes at Greenvale Leisure Centre
- D062/20 Tender for the Supply of a Range of Swimming Pool Chemicals and Gases for use across Mid Ulster District Council facilities
- D063/20 Supply, Delivery, Installation and Servicing of Fitness Suite Equipment in Maghera Leisure Centre
- D064/20 Community Events on Council Land – Community Support Programme

Matters for Information

- D065/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 February 2020
- D066/20 Tullaghoge Fort Development Update
- D067/20 DAERA Rural Micro Business Small Grant Pilot Scheme

D068/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Conferences, Seminars & Training |
| Date of Meeting | 26 March 2020 |
| Reporting Officer | Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Costs associated will be set against 2019-20 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members There are occasions when it is beneficial to Members to attend training, conferences and seminars to better equip them in their role as elected representatives. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought. |
| 3.2 | Officer Approvals There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2019/20 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | Human: not applicable |
| | Risk Management: not applicable |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable |
| | Rural Needs Implications: not applicable |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix A Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B Officers Approvals |

Appendix A

Member Training

| Provider/Course | Date & Time | Location | Costs | Attendee Requests |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------|-------------------|
| | | | | |

Conferences

| Provider/Course | Date & Time | Location | Costs | Attendee Requests |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Agenda NI Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2020 | Thursday 28th May 2020 • | La Mon Hotel, Belfast | £225 plus travel & Subsistence | |
| Agenda NI Engaging the NI Assembly 2020 | Thursday 30 April 2020 | Stormont Hotel, Belfast | £275+VAT | |

Cancellations/Postponements Notified Due to Ongoing Health Crisis

| Provider/Course | Date & Time | Location | Costs | Attendee Requests |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| The Computer says No: How 'Welfare' Algorithms Punish the Poor." | Wednesday 25 March 2020 5.30pm | Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast Campus, Ulster University, York Street, Belfast | Free Travel and subsistence | Cllr Molloy |
| NILGA - Caring Councils: A local government response to poverty, addiction and improving mental health | Friday 27 March 2020 | Girdwood Community Hub Belfast | Travel and subsistence | |

Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2020

Thursday 28th May 2020 • La Mon Hotel, Belfast

Sponsored by



Media partner



agendaNi is organising the annual Infrastructure Investment Conference which will examine the key elements required to create sustainable 21st century infrastructure. Infrastructure investment is a key building block for sustainable economic growth and is a key element in the New Decade, New Approach deal. This event will bring together key stakeholders to look at the sectoral challenges and examine the overall future direction for infrastructure.

Expert Speakers Include:

- Nichola Mallon MLA, Minister for Infrastructure
- Martin Spollen, Head of Investment Strategy, Strategic Investment Board
- Emer Murnaghan, Head of Responsible Sustainable Business, Graham
- Conal Henry, Chair, Fibrus
- Northern Ireland Water
- Chris Conway, Group Chief Executive, Translink;
- Trevor Anderson, Infrastructure and Business Transformation Director, Belfast Harbour

The expert panels will comprehensively address:

Priorities for future infrastructure investment
Delivering responsible and sustainable infrastructure
Making Belfast a resilient city
Investing in public transport
Water infrastructure: supporting the Northern Ireland economy
Investing for our digital future: delivering connectivity

Register now:

Delegate fee £225 + VAT @ 20% = £270.00

W: <https://www.ni-infrastructure.agendani.com>

E: registration@agendani.com

T: +44 (028) 9261 9933.

The background of the entire page is a black and white photograph of the Stormont Hotel in Belfast, showing its classical architecture with many windows and columns. On the left side, there are large, overlapping red and black geometric shapes that create a modern, abstract design.

agendaNi seminar

Engaging the Northern Ireland Assembly 2020

Thursday 30th April 2020
Stormont Hotel, Belfast

Engaging the Northern Ireland Assembly 2020

Following the restoration of devolution in the first month of the first year of the new decade, the Northern Ireland Assembly is set to be a hive of activity once again. With a fresh impetus in New Decade, New Approach – a document replete with ambitious priorities – local legislators will once again be accountable for actions which will have impactful repercussions across the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Assembly's committees have resumed business with scrutiny of cross-sectoral policy issues for each portfolio. Aside from Executive ministers, a broad cross-section of society will be called to give evidence to the committees, including senior civil servants, business leaders, directors of NGOs, church leaders and industry experts. As legislators strive to reassure the public of the new devolved institutions' longevity, the Assembly will become a focal point for the future of Northern Ireland. As such, individuals and organisations must seek to reengage with it.

This seminar offers those who will need to interact and influence the Assembly an insight into its inner workings. It is for both seasoned practitioners and those who are new to the functions and operations 'on the hill'.

Who should attend? If you work in...

Public affairs or communications

This seminar is a must if you work in the public affairs arena. Since each of the major local parties signed the New Decade, New Approach document and the subsequent restoration of devolution in January 2020, the Assembly is set to move ahead with a full legislative agenda and committees that are addressing a wide range of issues across all policy areas.

Northern Ireland public sector

Knowing how the local political system operates is vital to the role of any public sector official. This seminar will familiarise you with the processes of the Assembly, providing an understanding of how things work on a day-to-day basis.

Business sector

One aspect of the legislative process in Northern Ireland is the engagement of the private sector. Now that locally conceived legislation is once again set to directly impact upon local companies, it is essential that the business community continues to interact with MLAs and engage with committees in order to further the business agenda.

Voluntary or community sector

The third sector is arguably the most active in relation to directly engaging MLAs and indeed lobbying the local legislature as a whole. It is essential that those working with charities and NGOs remain cognisant of how the Assembly operates.

Session one

Introducing the Northern Ireland Assembly 2020

This session will contextualise the re-establishment of Northern Ireland's devolved institutions in January 2020. Mark Devenport, BBC NI's veteran political editor will examine the wider context of the New Decade, New Approach agreement and provide delegates with an insight into the immediate challenges and opportunities for devolution. Jon Tonge, University of Liverpool academic, political commentator and author of several notable books relating to Northern Ireland, will explore the political composition of the Assembly and deliver a progress report on the restored legislature. One of the most experienced local public affairs practitioners, Gravis Planning's John Fullerton will comprehensively detail why it is important to engage with the Assembly.

09:30 **Chairman's introduction: The road to the 2020 Assembly**

Mark Devenport, Political Editor
BBC NI

09:45 **New Decade, New Approach: Devolution progress report**

Professor Jon Tonge, Department of Politics, University of Liverpool

10:00 **Why engage with the Assembly: A practitioner's perspective**

John Fullerton, Director, Strategic Communications, Gravis Planning

10:30 Questions and discussion

10:45 Refreshments and networking break



Session two

The Northern Ireland Assembly in operation

Understanding the Assembly means possessing a practical knowledge of how it works on a daily basis. This session will consider the main components underpinning the Assembly's function. Dolores Kelly MLA will present a detailed analysis of the role of an MLA paying particular attention to the weekly workload undertaken by our legislators. The Assembly's committees are central to scrutiny of legislation, departments and ministers. Education Committee chair Chris Lyttle MLA will outline the workings of committees at a practical level. Gareth McGrath will explain the functional procedures of the Northern Ireland Assembly, while Roy Beggs will detail the crucial work carried out by the Public Accounts Committee.

- 11:15 **Beyond the basics: The role of an MLA**
Dolores Kelly MLA
- 11:35 **A guide to the workings of the Assembly**
Gareth McGrath, Director of Parliamentary Services, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11:55 **The role and workings of the committees in the Northern Ireland Assembly**
Chris Lyttle MLA, Chair
Committee for Education *(invited)*
- 12:15 **The Public Accounts Committee**
Roy Beggs MLA, Deputy Chair
Public Accounts Committee
- 12:35 Questions and discussion
- 12:45 Networking lunch



Session three

A practical guide to engaging with the Assembly

The final session will offer guidance to individuals and organisations on interacting and engaging with the Northern Ireland Assembly. Speakers from across the business sphere and the community and voluntary sectors will impart their experiences of lobbying the Assembly and offer advice to those undertaking public affairs campaigns. In addition, former SDLP SPAD Michael McKernan will explore the new role of special advisors. The session will conclude with a media panel which will debate the performance of the Assembly, barriers to the legislative process and identify the best performing legislators.

- 14:00 **Open for business? Transacting the business agenda with the Assembly**
Aodhán Connolly, Director
Northern Ireland Retail Consortium
- 14:20 **Getting your message across: How do we get MLAs to listen?**
Paschal McKeown, Charity Director
Age NI
- 14:40 **The inner workings of an all-party group**
John McLean, Chief Executive
Radius Housing Association
- 15:00 **The new role of Special Advisors**
Michael McKernan, former Special Advisor, SDLP
- 15:20 **Panel discussion: Performance and prospects of the Assembly**
Allison Morris, The Irish News
Alex Kane, Commentator and
Vincent Kearney, RTÉ *(invited)*
- 15:50 Questions and discussion
- 16:00 Chairman's concluding remarks and seminar close



Speakers

Session one:



Mark Devenport

Mark Devenport is BBC Northern Ireland's Political Editor. Mark has reported for the BBC since the 1980s and worked as the Corporation's Ireland Correspondent throughout the 1990s, including at the time of the Good Friday Agreement. Previously, Mark worked as the BBC's United Nations Correspondent based in New York and has reported from around the globe. Mark is the author of two books *Man of War*, *Man of Peace*, a biography of Gerry Adams (co-author with David Sharrock) and *Flash Frames*, an anecdotal account of working as a reporter in Belfast.



Jonathan Tonge

Jonathan Tonge is Professor of Politics at the University of Liverpool. He was Principal Investigator of the 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019 Economic and Social Research Council Northern Ireland General Election studies. Books include co-authored membership studies of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party in *The Ulster Unionist Party: Country Before Party?*, Sinn Féin and the SDLP and the Orange Order in *Loyal to the Core: Orangeism and Britishness in Northern Ireland*. Jon co-edits the journal *Parliamentary Affairs*. He has edited studies of the last six general elections in the Britain Votes series, published by Oxford University Press.



John Fullerton

John Fullerton graduated in Law from the University of Dundee in 2009 and also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Edinburgh. On a day-to-day basis he advises clients on all aspects of engagement with politicians, the media and other key stakeholders as well as managing projects through the statutory Pre-Application Community Consultation process. Prior to joining Gravis Planning, John held senior policy roles within a major political party in Northern Ireland and at a leading national business organisation, where he worked closely with elected representatives at Westminster and Stormont on various high-profile campaigns and policy issues.

Session two:



Dolores Kelly MLA

Dolores Kelly has represented the constituency of Upper Bann since 2003. She is a member of the Policing Board and the Assembly Social Development Committee. At a local level, Dolores served on the Craigavon District Council between 1993 and 2010 and was elected as Mayor of Craigavon in 1999. Previously, she chaired the Assembly Employment and Learning Committee having formerly chaired the Environment Committee. More recently, Dolores served as vice-chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.



Gareth McGrath

Gareth McGrath is Director of Parliamentary Services at the Northern Ireland Assembly. He leads a team of around 150 staff responsible for the management of meetings of the Assembly Plenary and its committees, for the official record of proceedings ('Hansard'), and for the Assembly's Communications, Public Engagement and Information Systems services. This includes marshalling the provision of advice to the Speaker, Deputy Speakers, committee chairpersons and MLAs on parliamentary procedure and practice; and managing the passage of legislation. Gareth joined the Assembly in 2008, having previously worked in the chemical industry, management consulting and the Civil Service. In his spare time he is chair of the Board of Governors of Drumlins Integrated Primary School.



Roy Beggs MLA

Roy Beggs was first elected in 1998 as an Ulster Unionist MLA for East Antrim. In June 2001, he was also elected to Carrickfergus Borough Council, where he served as a local councillor for 10 years. Currently he is Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, having previously served on several Assembly committees. Roy is currently a Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and has also been active on a number of All Party Assembly Groups, including the All Party Assembly Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Session three:



Aodhán Connolly

Aodhán Connolly is the Director of the NI Retail Consortium, responsible for engagement with the NI Assembly, Westminster, the Oireachtas and Europe. He has worked with government at all levels to champion 21st Century high streets including on planning reform. He recently published a go to guide for councillors on retail for local government partnership working.



Paschal McKeown

Paschal McKeown is Charity Director with Age NI, responsible for services, programmes and activities which aim to improve outcomes for older people and ensure everyone can enjoy a better later life. Paschal had worked in the voluntary sector for nearly 30 years in a number of roles, including Head of Policy and Influencing at Age NI; interim Director and Head of External Relations and Community Action at Mencap.



John McLean

John McLean is Chief Executive of Radius Housing Association since its formation in 2017. He is also Chief Executive of Fold Housing Association Ireland, based in Dublin. He was formerly Chief Executive of Fold Housing Association. John is a Chartered Engineer and has been Commercial Director with NIE, the Tyco Group and the Rotary Group. He has worked overseas and in the UK in the Oil and Gas, Electricity Utility and Manufacturing sectors.



Michael McKernan

Michael McKernan joined the Board of Mutual Energy in January 2018. An economist by training, Michael has 25 years' experience working in government, north and south and in senior roles in the Irish energy sector. Most recently, Michael served as Special Advisor to a number of SDLP ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive. Formerly, he was Interconnector Business Manager at NIE. In his earlier career, Michael was a professionally qualified Housing Manager in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He subsequently joined the Department of Finance in Dublin, where he was a national trade negotiator in Brussels and Geneva and a Director of the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

Media panel:



Allison Morris

Allison Morris began her reporting career more than 20 years ago, working in the weekly newspaper industry. She joined the *Irish News* in 2007 and since then has gone on to collect several awards for her work. Allison is the *Irish News* security correspondent and is also a regular columnist.



Alex Kane

Alex Kane is a columnist for both the *News Letter* and the *Irish News*, as well as being a regular contributor to the *Belfast Telegraph*. Specialising in political commentary, he is also a frequent guest across a range of BBC, UTV and RTÉ. Alex is also a former UUP Director of Communications.

Registration form

I wish to:

☐ Reserve ____ delegate places at the Engaging the

Northern Ireland Assembly 2020
Conference delegate fee: £275 + VAT @ 20% = £330.00
Voluntary sector rate: £250 + VAT @ 20% = £300.00
Fee includes documentation, lunch and other refreshments served during the conference and is payable in advance. Fee does not include accommodation or travel.

☐ Receive details of exhibition opportunities

☐ Receive details of future agenda publications and events

Personal details

Name: _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Payment options

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ _____
Payable to 'bmf Business Services'.

☐ Please invoice me☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

Card no.

[illegible]

Expiry date _____ Security code _____

Name of card holder_____

Signature _____

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

Cancellations / Substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute participant may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, the following charges will apply:

More than 14 days before the conference: 25% fee

Less than 14 days before the conference: 100% fee

Failure to attend: 100% fee.

Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates, following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours, please email registration@agendani.com to confirm your booking.

You can unsubscribe from receiving information at any time, please let us know by emailing info@agendaNi.com or phoning 028 9261 9933.

Key questions addressed at the seminar

- How does the Assembly work in practice?
- How do organisations get involved with the Assembly?
- How can we build and develop working relationships with the Assembly?
- How can we practically engage with MLAs and committees?
- What is the day-to-day role of Assembly staff, MLAs and committees?

- Gain an understanding of the workings of the Northern Ireland Assembly
- Comprehend the different stages of the legislative process
- Hear from expert speakers involved with the Assembly
- Learn the practicalities of engaging with MLAs
- Discover how the committee system works and how committees take evidence

How to register



By phone
028 9261 9933



By email
registration@agendani.com



Online
www.agendani.com



By post
Davidson House
Glenavy Road Business Park
Moirá, Co Down
BT67 0LT

Retrospective Approval

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee (Yes/ No) |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Planning for a Resilient Future Conference | 6/3/20 | 1 | UU, Belfast | Yes |
| Manufacturing NI Visit to Manchester & Sheffield | Date TBC | 1 | Manchester & Sheffield | No |
| | | | | |

Approval

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee (Yes/ No) |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sports Safety Conference 20 | 27/3/20 | 2 x PHI | Portstewart | No |
| Women's Leadership Seminar | 12/5/20 | 1 | Dundalk | No |
| | | | | |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Council's Governance arrangements re COVID 19 including the Scheme of Delegation for Planning |
| Date of Meeting | 26 th March 2020 |
| Reporting Officer | Chief Executive, Planning Manager |
| Contact Officer | Chief Executive, Planning Manager |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To seek members' approval to suspend Committees until further notice as part of the Council's response to COVID19; |
| 1.2 | To seek members' approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation for Planning. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | <i>General Governance Arrangements</i> As part of the Council's response to COVID 19 including consideration of the measures needed to address issues of social distancing, it is proposed that Committees are suspended until further notice. |
| 2.2 | <i>Planning</i> At present a large proportion of applications and enforcement decisions are determined by the Planning Committee. Unfortunately, it is unavoidable in the current circumstances that the normal operation of the planning committee and planning decisions will be disrupted. It is therefore recommended that measures are put in place to allow for planning decisions to be made, subject to key safeguards. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | In order to allow decision making to continue and reduce the burden on the planning committee at this current time, it is recommended that the scheme of delegation that authorises the Planning Manager to carry out planning functions on behalf of the Council is amended. In simple terms, the suggestion is to increase the delegated authority of the Planning Manager in relation to Development Management and Enforcement decisions and functions, with exceptions including that which cannot be delegated under the legislation. |
| 3.2 | Appendix A contains the proposed amended Scheme of Delegation for Planning ("the Scheme"). The Scheme is divided in to two parts:- |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Page 1 – the delegation of those planning functions that require the approval of the Department for Infrastructure under Section 31 of the Planning Act. It is suggested that all local development planning applications and applications regarding conditions that can be delegated to the Planning Manager are delegated. In effect this, amounts to a very small number of applications that would need to progress to the Committee. An important safeguard remains in the Scheme, giving any council member the ability to ask for an application to be considered by the planning committee. This is to ensure that members have an ability to subject an application to further scrutiny; - Pages 2 & 3 - the delegation of those planning functions that require the approval of the Council under Section 7 of the Local Government Act. It is suggested that other planning functions are widened also. In summary, the Planning Manager would be able to determine most consents, certificates, including TPOs and BPNs. The Planning Manager would be delegated authority to take enforcement actions and in cases of urgency, issue Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices and Urgent Works Notices |
| 3.3 | In relation to decisions to be taken on planning applications under the Planning Manager's delegated authority, in order to allow members the opportunity to refer an application to the Planning committee, in addition to the standard lists of applications sent out by democratic services, a list containing the officer's recommendation will also be sent out to all members. If members wish to view the application, any objections or consultation, responses, and indeed the officer's report, this will be made available on the planning portal. Members will be provided one week to notify the Democratic Services that they wish the application to be considered by the Planning committee and the material planning reason for doing so. |
| 3.4 | Where members use this mechanism to refer the application to the Planning Committee, they should be aware that a decision on the application is likely to be delayed for a period of time. It will require a Planning Committee to be properly convened and appropriate measures to be put in place for the application to be properly considered. |
| 3.5 | The Scheme also includes an ability for the Planning Manager to delegate the decision making to their nominee (i.e., Head of Development Management or Head of Development Plan), should the Planning Manager be absent from work and unable to carry out these functions. |
| 3.6 | It is proposed that these measures will only be temporary and for the duration of the difficulties associated with COVID 19 that impact on planning decision taking. It is not possible to say how long this will be for, however, the situation will reviewed regularly. The Scheme does require a general review in any event and it is hoped that when it is "business as usual" that a revised Scheme could be brought back to the members. |
| 3.7 | Members are advised that in relation to the parts of the Scheme that require DfI approval (mainly page 1 of Appendix A), this will need to be obtained before those parts of the Scheme can be adopted and take effect. The approved Scheme can |

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| | then be publicised. The same applies in relation to any future amendments to these parts of the Scheme. |
| 3.8 | The remaining parts of the Scheme (mainly pages 2 and 3 of Appendix A), require Council approval only and can take effect thereafter. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: N/A |
| | Human: N/A |
| | Risk Management: Consideration to be given to governance arrangements if we enter in to a “lockdown” situation. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A |
| | Rural Needs Implications: N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | To suspend Committees until further notice. |
| 5.2 | To approve the amended Scheme of Delegation for Planning. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A - Scheme of Delegation for Planning (Amended) |

Scheme of Delegation for Planning (Development Management)

The Scheme of Delegation for planning was agreed by Mid Ulster District Council at its meeting of [INSERT]. Approval by the Department for Infrastructure was obtained on [INSERT]. The Department approval is in accordance with Section 31 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 and Regulation 9 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Scheme of Delegation takes effect and is adopted from [INSERT DATE OF DFI APPROVAL].

Part A – Mandatory applications for determination by the Planning Committee:

Statutory requirements require that certain types of application cannot be delegated to officers:

- Applications which fall within the Major category of development;
- An application for planning permission where the application is made by the council or an elected member of the council, and
- The application relates to land in which the council has an interest/estate.

Part B – Delegated Applications to the Planning Manager or their nominee:

The exercise of the following functions, in line with relevant Council policies, is delegated to the Planning Manager. In the event of absence by the Planning Manager, then the exercise of the following functions is delegated to either Head of Service in the planning Department that the Planning Manager nominates:-

To determine all local development applications and any application for consent, agreement or approval required by a planning condition, with the exception of:

- Any application referred to the Planning Committee for determination by a Council Member on material planning consideration grounds.

Part C – Publicity:

On adoption of this scheme of delegation the council made a copy

- available on the councils website at www.midulstercouncil.org.
- available at Mid Ulster Council Offices

Magherafelt Office
50 Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Scheme of Delegation for Planning (Consents, certificates, TPOs, enforcement and other determinations)

The Scheme of Delegation for Planning (consents, certificates, tree preservation orders, enforcement of planning control and other determinations) was agreed by Mid Ulster District Council at its meeting of [*Thursday 26 March 2020*]. The Scheme of Delegation takes effect from 1 April 2020 and is in accordance with Section 7(1)(a) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Consents, certificates, TPOS and other:

The Planning Manager, or their nominee in cases of absence, is delegated the authority to exercise the following functions:-

- i. determining applications for works to, or demolition of, buildings or structures in conservation areas and areas of townscape character, except where it involves full demolition of a main building (excluding buildings which are ancillary or incidental);
- ii. determining applications for listed building consent
- iii. determining applications for the display of advertisements;

The above applications are delegated with the exception of the following which require determination by the Planning Committee:

- The application is made by the council or an elected member of the council.
 - The application relates to land in which the council has an interest.
- iv. temporary listing of buildings including the issuing of building preservation notices and listing in urgent cases;
 - v. determining applications for certificates of lawful development;
 - vi. determining applications for a non-material change;
 - vii. determining Pre-Application Notifications;
 - viii. exercising the Council's powers in relation to the preservation of trees;
 - ix. exercising the Council's powers in relation to hazardous substances;
 - x. the making of a screening opinion or scoping opinion in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment; Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal; Habitats Regulations Assessment; and Rural Needs Impact Assessment;

- xi. administering statutory registers;
- xii. registering and removing notices and charges in the Statutory Charges Register, in consultation with the Council Solicitor
- xiii. conducting of planning related appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission; Public Examinations and other planning related public inquiries. This does not apply in relation to the Council's Local Development Plan.

Breaches of Planning Control, Enforcement and other action

The Planning Manager, or their nominee in cases of absence, is delegated the authority to exercise the following functions:-

- i. executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order in an emergency and where empowered by statute and recovering the costs of so doing;
- ii. enforcing all regulations and orders made under planning legislation and issuing, serving and withdrawal of notices. The functions in relation to Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices, Urgent Works Notices, are only delegated in circumstances where the Planning Manager considers that urgency or immunity requires immediate action;
- iii. instructing the Council Solicitor to institute and/or defend legal proceedings on behalf of the Council;
- iv. authorising officers pursuant to relevant legislation for the purpose of exercising statutory powers.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report on | Correspondence to Council – March 2020 |
| Date of Meeting | Thurs 26 th March 2020 |
| Reporting Officer | P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Correspondence from Northern Ireland Assembly Committees (<i>Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and Finance Committees</i>) Appendix A |
| 3.2 | Correspondence from Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, NI Executive Appendix B |
| 3.3 | Correspondence from Deputy Secretary Work & Health, Department for Communities Appendix C |
| 3.4 | Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive Appendix D |
| 3.5 | Correspondence from Chairperson, ICBAN Appendix E |
| 3.6 | Correspondence from Minister of Justice, NI Executive Appendix F |
| 3.7 | Correspondence from Minister for Health, NI Executive |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 3.8 | Appendix G Correspondence from Chief Executive Volunteer Now Appendix H |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: not applicable |
| | Human: not applicable |
| | Risk Management: not applicable |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable |
| | Rural Needs Implications: not applicable |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix A: Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and Finance Committees, NIA Appendix B: Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs Appendix C: Deputy Secretary Work & Health, Department for Communities Appendix D: Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive Appendix E: from Chairperson, ICBAN Appendix F: Minister of Justice, NI Executive Appendix G: Minister for Health, NI Executive Appendix H: Chief Executive Volunteer Now |



Committee for Finance

Appendix A

Councillor Martin Kearney
Chairperson
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

14 February 2020

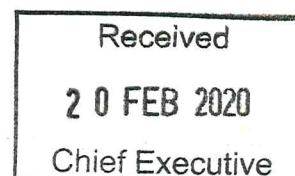
Dear Mr Kearney

At its meeting on 12 February the Committee for Finance considered the invitation to hold a meeting at a Council location in Mid Ulster.

The Committee would like to thank the Council for the invitation. The Committee agreed to consider the offer as part of its Forward Work Programme should an appropriate issue arise which would make such a visit beneficial.

Yours Sincerely,

Jim McManus
Clerk
Committee for Finance





Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Eileen Forde
Member Support Officer
Dungannon Office
Mid Ulster District Council

17 February 2020

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for your recent correspondence, the Committee welcomed your very kind offer of available accommodation at their meeting of 13 February 2020.

The Committee agreed to add the suggested venues to its list of possible locations to use for external committee meetings. The Committee work programme is currently focused on Brexit legislation and it has asked you to note that it may be some time before it has the opportunity to organise external meetings and visits.

Yours sincerely,

Stella McArdle
Clerk, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Councillor Martin Kearney
Mid Ulster District Council
E-mail: Eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Appendix B

DAERA Private Office
Room 438
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: INV/1139/2020

Date: 05 March 2020

Dear Martin

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 2020 requesting a meeting to discuss the strategic priorities of the Mid Ulster district.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these issues.

My Diary Secretary, Christine Skelton will contact you in due course to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely



EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



Deputy Secretary Work & Health

Department for Communities

Causeway Exchange

1-7 Bedford St

Belfast

BT2 7EG

11 March 2020

Dear Stakeholder,

I want to share an update on the next phase in implementing Universal Credit, previously called Managed Migration, and now known as 'Move to UC'.

Last January, I wrote to tell you of the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) plans to commence a pilot exercise and gave a timeframe for Move to UC here. In the next phase, those who remain in receipt of any of the benefits/credits that Universal Credit replaces will be contacted and will move across to Universal Credit.

The DWP pilot commenced in Harrogate in July 2019. The pilot is testing a number of approaches to identify the best way to move people across to Universal Credit. Move to UC, for people in GB, was due to complete in December 2023, however, DWP recently announced that the end date for Move to UC will now be extended by nine months to September 2024.

Subject to DWP progress and Department for Communities' Ministerial approval, and to ensure that we have the best opportunity to learn from the DWP pilot, it is anticipated that the earliest Move to UC will commence here is early 2021, completing by September 2024.

We are committed to delivering this next phase here in a safe and controlled way, ensuring that there is support and additional safeguards to protect vulnerable people.

Officials in my Department will continue to work with you and a wide range of grass-roots community organisations not only to improve the service offered to people claiming Universal Credit, but also to support and shape the Move to UC for people here.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver the best possible outcomes for people here.

Please contact the Universal Credit Programme Director, Conrad McConnell by email UniversalCreditCommunications@communities-ni.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colum Boyle', with a horizontal line underneath.

Colum Boyle



**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Councillor Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: INV/1169/2020

7th March 2020

Dear Martin

INVITATION TO RECEIVE DELEGATION FROM MID ULSTER COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 2020 requesting that I receive a delegation from Mid Ulster Council.

I would welcome this opportunity to meet and will ask my diary secretary, George Turkington, to contact you in due course to make the necessary arrangements.

**NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure**

Irish Central Border Area Network Ltd.
Units 4-6 Enniskillen Business Centre
21 Lackaghboy Road
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 4RL

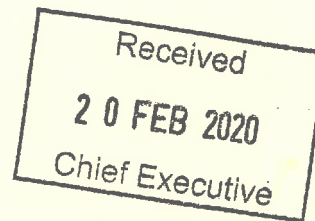
Tel: (0)28 6634 0710

Email: info@icban.com

Website: www.icban.com

19th February 2020

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT



Dear Anthony,

We wish to commend to you the report *'The Border into Brexit: Perspectives of local communities in the Central Border Region of Ireland / Northern Ireland'*. This has been authored by Dr. Katy Hayward and Dr. Milena Komarova at Queen's University Belfast and is based on the results of our Brexit research initiative which took place between September and November 2019.

This report follows on from the two previous reports we published in 2017 and 2018. Among a wide range of topics covered, the latest findings present data and commentary on the effects of Brexit already felt, the views of Leave supporters in the border region, and opinions of the revised Withdrawal Agreement. It notes that the revised Withdrawal Agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Boris Johnson appears not to have wholly reassured people in the Central Border Region. People still expect disruption from Brexit, are still wary of the information they have received on the topic, and still feel uncertain about the future impact of Brexit on daily life in the border region

The report provides a platform to directly communicate the voices of communities from the Central Border area of Northern Ireland / Ireland, which is and will be the Region most affected by the Brexit process. We are especially concerned to ensure that potential consequences arising from the process are negated, such as the impacts from any hardening of the existing border. This research complements other border region reports and initiatives as primary evidence of the latest opinions expressed by border communities.

Yours sincerely,

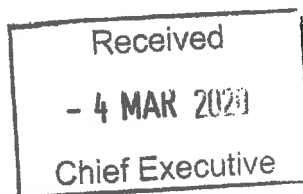
P. Treanor

Councillor Pat Treanor
Chair

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Appendix F



Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5725
private.office@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Councillor Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster council
Burn Road
Cookstown
Co. Tyrone
BT80 8DT

INV-1103-2020

25th February 2020

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 2020 requesting that I receive a delegation from Mid Ulster council to discuss the need for continued effective partnership working on community safety and anti-social behaviour; funding for legacy cases and the development and maintenance of an animal cruelty register.

The latter issue of an animal cruelty register falls outside the remit of my Department as all animal welfare matters – including offences and penalties for animal abuse or cruelty contained in The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – are the remit of Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Therefore any policy proposal for the creation of a register of offenders for those convicted of animal welfare offences would be for DAERA to consider.

I would be pleased to meet with a council delegation to discuss those issues which fall to my Department.

In the interim I would make you aware that legacy funding is a live issue for the Executive as well as the Department of Justice. There are significant pressures and uncertainties associated with all legacy related work areas including Legacy Inquests and the Stormont House Agreement (SHA) and its proposed Institutions.

The United Kingdom government's recent commitment to introduce legislation implementing the Stormont House Agreement is very welcome. As Minister of Justice I wish to ensure the justice elements of the Stormont House Agreement are implemented so that outstanding legacy cases can be properly addressed and resources being diverted to support current legacy investigations can be returned to support present day policing.

My Diary Secretary will make contact with Council staff to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for a meeting. I look forward to our proposed discussion.

Best Regards,

Naomi

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Appendix G



Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Councillor Martin Kearney
Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

Your Ref: C0003/20

Our Ref: CORR-1136-2020

Date: 7th February 2020

Dear *Martin,*

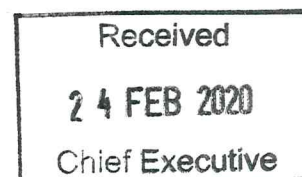
Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2020 in which you have raised concerns about the Southern Health and Social Care Trust's participation in the Mid Ulster Support Hub.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and for the Council's continued interest in this area. I understand that the Southern Health and Social Care Trust is currently exploring options to support this initiative both in the short and longer term and remains fully committed to working in partnership with other local agencies.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



10 February 2020

Mr Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Ballyronan Park
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Dear Mr Tohill

Developing volunteering within your Council area.

Volunteer Now is committed to ensuring that we have the tools in place to support existing and potential volunteers to make a positive impact in their local community.

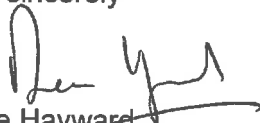
We are delighted to announce that we have brought a new volunteer opportunity search system which includes a volunteer management platform to Northern Ireland. The system (powered by Be Collective) is a new and innovative tool that will enable organisations to promote their opportunities and manage their volunteers. For individuals, they will be able to search and register for opportunities in a dynamic and responsive system and turn their journey into a social record (CV) outlining their skills gained, time given and any qualifications gained. We are working with the local Volunteer Centre in your area to ensure that they and the organisations they support benefit from it also as well as members of the public.

For Councils we believe that this system will not only change the way organisations engage with each other but also how we promote and encourage volunteering. The volunteer management side also enables organisations to create social impact reports that will showcase the value of the volunteering contribution - something that will be a powerful tool in articulating the added value that volunteering brings to our communities. Public and private organisations, like Councils, will also be able to use the platform to promote and encourage engagement in their Corporate Social Responsibility policies amongst their staff and the wider community that you support.

We believe that there is great potential in the new system for changing the face of volunteering within Northern Ireland and enabling a greater degree of connectivity within and between communities. If you would like a demonstration on the new system please do not hesitate to contact Jamie Greer (Jamie.greer@volunteernow.co.uk).

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely



Denise Hayward
Chief Executive

Received

18 FEB 2020

Chief Executive

T: 028 9023 2020

W: www.volunteernow.co.uk

E: info@volunteernow.co.uk

Skainos Centre
239 Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 1AF

12E Market Square
Antrim, BT41 4AN

Fermanagh House
Broadmeadow Place Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh BT74 7HR

Ballybot House
28 Cornmarket Newry
Co Down BT358BG



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council |
| Date of Meeting | 26 March 2019 |
| Reporting Officer | Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To update members on the consultations notified to Council for comment. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: N/A |
| | Human: N/A |
| | Risk Management: N/A |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: None |
| | Rural Needs Implications: None |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council. |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations |

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
|--|--|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Corporate Improvement Plan 2020-21 | Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is seeking your views on the Corporate Improvement Plan 2020-21 | 25 May 2020 | |
| | Link to Consultation | https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/consultations/ | | |
| | Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)? | | Not applicable | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Armagh City, Craigavon and Banbridge Borough Council | Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2020-21 | Armagh City, Craigavon and Banbridge Borough Council is seeking views on Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2020-21 | 24 April 2020 | |
| | Link to Consultation | https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/draft-performance-improvement-objectives-consultation/ | | |
| | Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)? | | Not applicable | |